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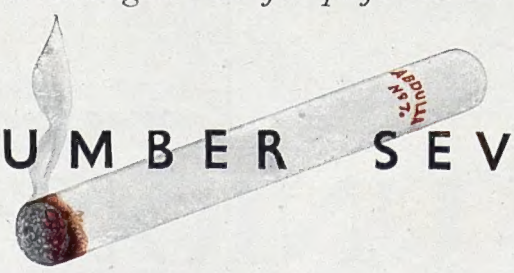


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Volume CXCVI No. 2553 The SPHERE, London, January 8, 1949

THE SPHERE
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The Empire's Illustrated Weekly

**NEW YEAR'S DAY IN THE STRAND—THE NORMALLY BUSY THOROUGHFARE AS IT WAS LAST SATURDAY AFTERNOON DURING THE ONE-DAY BUS STRIKE: In the distance is a single bus. The unofficial strike was started by bus and tramway workers to enforce their demand for time-and-a-half payment for work on Saturday afternoon. The intention of the strikers' was to keep transport off the roads every Saturday afternoon till the Executive conceded their claim**

Attendances at Saturday sporting events and indoor entertainments were much curtailed by the New Year's Day strike of the London busmen and tramway workers. The Strand typified conditions throughout the West End during last Saturday afternoon. The strike was not complete, nor did it begin everywhere at the same time, and at some garages the men stopped work at midnight on the previous day, causing a partial paralysis of Saturday morning traffic. In a statement seeking to justify the rejection of the claims the London Transport Executive pointed out that the cost of the extra wages involved would be £750,000 a year. The statement added that the average earnings of a central bus driver are £7 1s. 6d. a week, and of a conductor £6 16s. 6d. a week. Last Monday Mr. Isaacs, the Minister of Labour, announced that he would intervene in the dispute

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# A LONDON NEWSLETTER

1, NEW OXFORD STREET, W.C.1.

## A Stormy Beginning.—

The revellers and others who let the New Year in, let in a veritable gale of wind and rain and sleet and snow, and darkness over all. And all over the world the political barometers registered "stormy." One had only to glance at the headlines of a sober journal on January 1 to collect a sorry total of "deep depressions." The world's leaders in their New Year messages mostly employed the metaphor of dark or gathering storm-clouds, and spoke of a New Year of fate. Communism, the great enemy of Western civilisation, after one or two setbacks in 1948, looks to have in sight a notable triumph in China, where Chiang is preparing to admit defeat and accept the inevitable without much more effort to save face. The U.N., the hoped-for salvation of our civilisation, saw the old year out at the nadir of its reputation. It has grown accustomed to unkind words, hitherto mostly negative. It begins 1949 with a more positive label. It has been branded as something more than ineffective; it has been called by Dr. Malan a positive danger to liberty in its present form. We look across the world and see where it has failed, in Palestine, in Indonesia, in Austria, in Italy, in Germany. Like a beaten boxer, it has covered up, staved-off and gone down to a count of nine. The common enemy of the West, Communism, has been largely responsible for its failure, and its poison is still sapping such will-power and energy as remains in the war-worn peoples of Europe. We are very conscious of that here in England, where the great efforts of a majority are still handicapped by unofficial strikes, the reckless and ruthless disregard of the pledged word, of chosen leaders, of duty to the public. The picture of the world and of England is by no means all blackness and gloom. There are bright patches which visibly increase in size. There are many items which honest Crusoe must chalk up on the "good" side. It would be a tempting (but a very loose) simplification to blame all the world's trials and frustrations on Stalin, Russia and what comes out of Russia; to say: eliminate Russia and her influences, and the world to-day has a good chance to become a decent, orderly and even prosperous globe before 1950. It is not so. Always in history there has probably been a Bad Fairy No. 1 who sabotages the distribution from Pandora's box; but the bad fairy of the day, however active, is not enough. Man is betrayed by what is false within himself. And no people in civilisation to-day are as well equipped as were their grandfathers to resist the infiltrations of evil and to find happiness for themselves. It may be natural, but it is not excusable, for it is not inevitable. It is up to the individual all the world over to shape the year 1949 into a year of good fortune and not a year of fate. For it is as true to-day as in the Napoleonic era: if the nations of good will would trust each other fully and co-operate wholeheartedly, the dangers which beset civilisation would be averted. Half-hearted co-operation is not enough. It must be selfless, total, absolute, and that degree of co-operation is only possible when the people of good will unite to co-operate in their own countries to rebuild their own States.

## Honours Easy.—

An Honours List can never be devised to satisfy all aspirants. Always a number of worthy or ambitious persons must go empty away. But if a list can be compiled which gives a token to every ascertainable sphere of national activity, it goes a long way towards removing all but the personal grievances of perhaps too ambitious or vain men. And this last New Year list has tried very hard for that perfection. It has reduced to a very minimum hereditary titles, as is, I think, natural and proper. It has been exceedingly adroit with its distribution of knighthoods. We have a new cricket knight (our immortal Don), a rowing and a football knight, farmer, architect, mining, Civil Service, local government, science, medicine, law, welfare and drama knights; and if there be any activities not comprised in the knighthood divide, are they not all covered in the C.B.E. list? Even the profession of letters is remembered, and handsomely, too, in the bestowal of a C.H. on Lord David Cecil. And other literary folk are remembered elsewhere in the not unusually large divide. Can we hope that henceforth only Lord Mayors of London may aspire to baronetcies? I confess that what Frank Richardson felt about Whiskers, I feel about new baronetcies. In our modern world, they have not a leg to stand on, not even the excuse for new hereditary-peerage creations that the Upper House must still be recruited.

**BOB HOPE, "MORALE BOOSTER"—THE AMERICAN COMEDIAN ENTERTAINING THE MEN OF BURTONWOOD, WHOSE TROUBLES HAVE COME TO OFFICIAL NOTICE: American Statesmen, Generals and troupes of U.S. screen stars arrived in an air convoy at Burtonwood Camp, near Warrington, last week, to quell the mounting discontent among the 3,000 U.S. Air Force officers and enlisted men stationed there. The Statesmen and Generals are conducting rigorous inquiries into the alleged bad conditions. Heading the "morale boosters" were Bob Hope, Jinx Falkenburg and Irving Berlin. They arrived at the airfield five hours late, owing to bad conditions for flying on the journey from Germany**

## Egyptian Monkey-House.—

King Farouk's chief Ministers take their lives in their hands. Their ends are likely to be as sticky as the Cæsar Emperors of old Rome. Assassination—even if called political—is always futile, is murder by half-wits; and it is the chief shame of modern Egypt that its universities are a breeding-ground for assassins, rioters and gunmen, the word "student" synonymous with hothead irresponsibility, and its universities too often comparable with the monkey-houses of a nightmare. I do not think that Britain had any reason to regard Nokrashy as a friend. If one judged some of his actions as one judges the relations of one man to another, one could say that he double-crossed us once or twice. But nationalism is a stronger force than an individual's panache, and Premiers' actions are not so judged. I would not stand in Farouk's shoes, still less in the shoes of his chief Ministers. For apart from the risk of assassination, they lead a hectic life, blown this way and that by all the winds that blow round Cairo, from the Arab League, the Muslim Brotherhood, the Sudan, Palestine, and farther east and north; and from the Palace. The Arabs, at any rate, regarded him as a friend, a strong man and a key man. His worst enemies, if only moderately sane, must regard his murder as utterly futile and utterly loathsome, the very nadir of monkey-house irresponsibility. And now Abdul Hadi, an Independent, is dug out of his comparative seclusion, to become the target and himself to have a shy.

## Christmas Truce?—

The Christmas Truce idea did not catch on this year. Israel opened an attack on Gaza when the carol singers were singing peace and goodwill all over the world, and the Dutch were "advancing all along the line" in North Java. A word for the Dutch. If they have a fault, it is in sometimes "asking too much." But much has been asked of them in Indonesia, and the enormity of their breach of the Covenant has been made too much of in the Security Council. Exaggeration cuts no ice in a judicial sense. The Dutch Government has borne a great deal at the hands of the guerillas, who have never ceased to infiltrate and to murder while the Dutch held their hand. It is to be hoped that the U.N.S.C., which has a case, and even a case which might at last be dealt with effectively and with unity, will show moderation. It were pity that one of the most productive and rich territories in the East should be handed over to sabotage and chaos through over-zealousness in halting a technical breach by means of sanctions which for once might prove all too effective. There was no Hitlerism in the Dutch action, which came untimely, but might well have come earlier. As a rule, the U.N. works much too slowly and hesitantly to avail complainant nations.

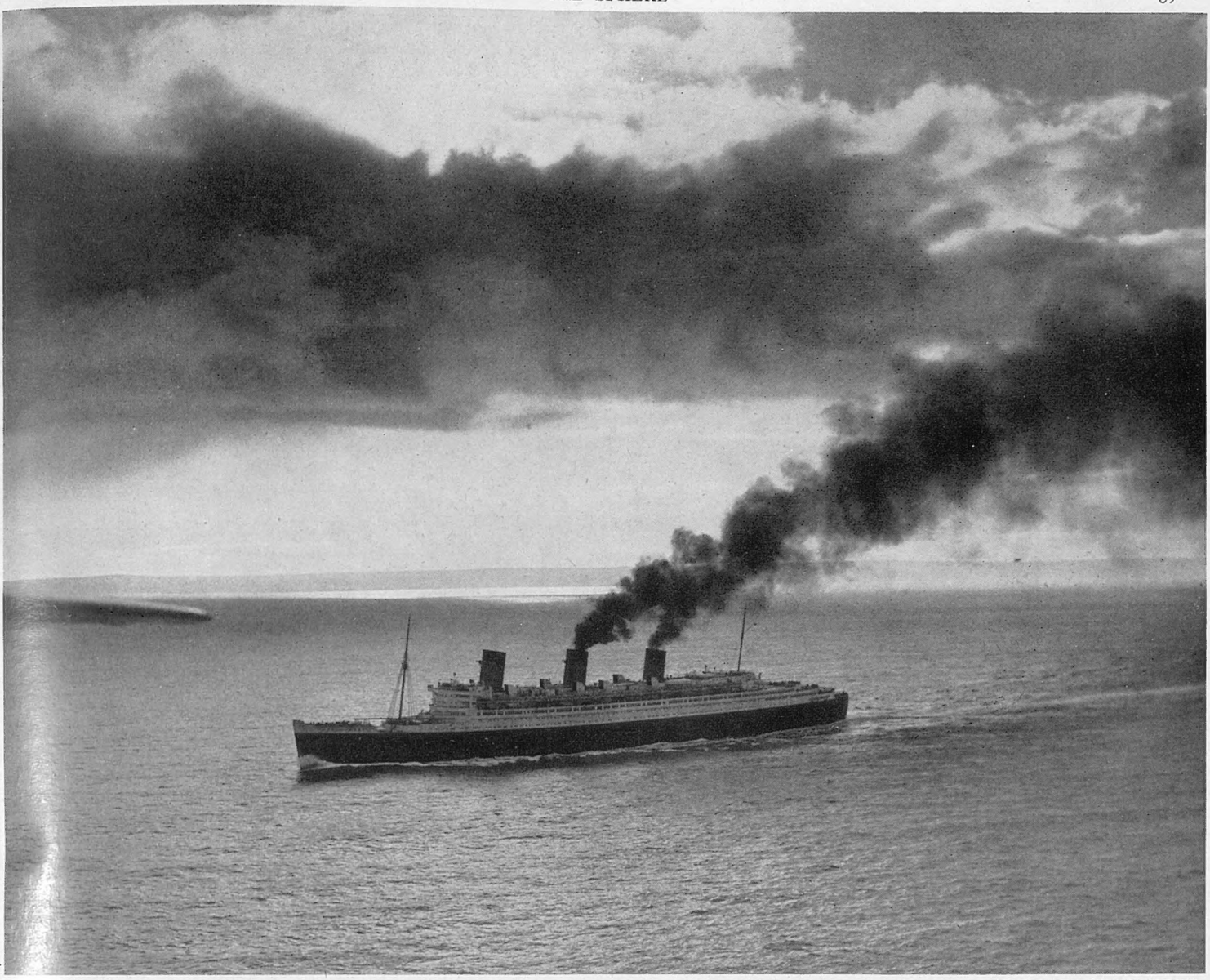
## Mr. Gibson Resigns.—

Mr. Gibson's resignation as a (not full time) Director of the Bank of England came as no surprise after the Attorney-General's summing-up, which made clear the A.-G.'s own opinion of Mr. Gibson. Mr. Gibson, who is a Companion of Honour, retains his £4,000-a-year post as Chairman of the North-Western Electricity Board. It may be that the Church House Court may dissent from the A.-G.'s summing-up submission; but probably the public will feel that Mr. Gibson did right to resign at once. The Bank of England directorate had a very high reputation before the Labour Party laid hands upon it and implemented their criticisms of its actions and policy. It does not appear that to date that implementation has borne valuable fruit. But no doubt, with all forms of nationalisation, rationalisation and democratisation, long-term results are to be looked for. We used to take pride and comfort in the phrases "safe as the Bank of England," "punctual as the G.W. expresses," and so on. One day, perhaps, we shall have substitute phrases as potent for our pride and comfort.

## Stamp-licking Dividend?

—It so happens that our doctor's and dentist's bills for the half-year just ended have been higher than ever before. That is sad, for we were all virtuously employed on stamp-licking for "cradle-to-grave security," *including a free medical service.* But my weekly 6s. 2d. availed nought. I am wondering if we could have acted differently. I don't think so. You see, you may get your G.P.'s advice and medicine free, but if he require a radiographer's or analyst's co-operation, *their* services are by no means easy to come by. And our dentist is not in the scheme. One of his partners, it is true, joined up, but he is booked up till 1950, and that is a long time to wait with a throbbing tooth. Perhaps we should have abandoned our old friend who has so long and so admirably had "the run of our teeth," but nobody else would take on the job . . . till 1950 perhaps. So there we are. We pay our heavy premiums for the great insurance, but . . . we stand the racket just the same. Yes, we had to pay even for our spectacles, for somehow or other we bungled the technique. All it comes to is: we are taxed another £50 per annum for the benefit of some persons unknown. It gives us a glow of virtue. We pay twice as much and look twice as pleasant.

THE OLD STAGER

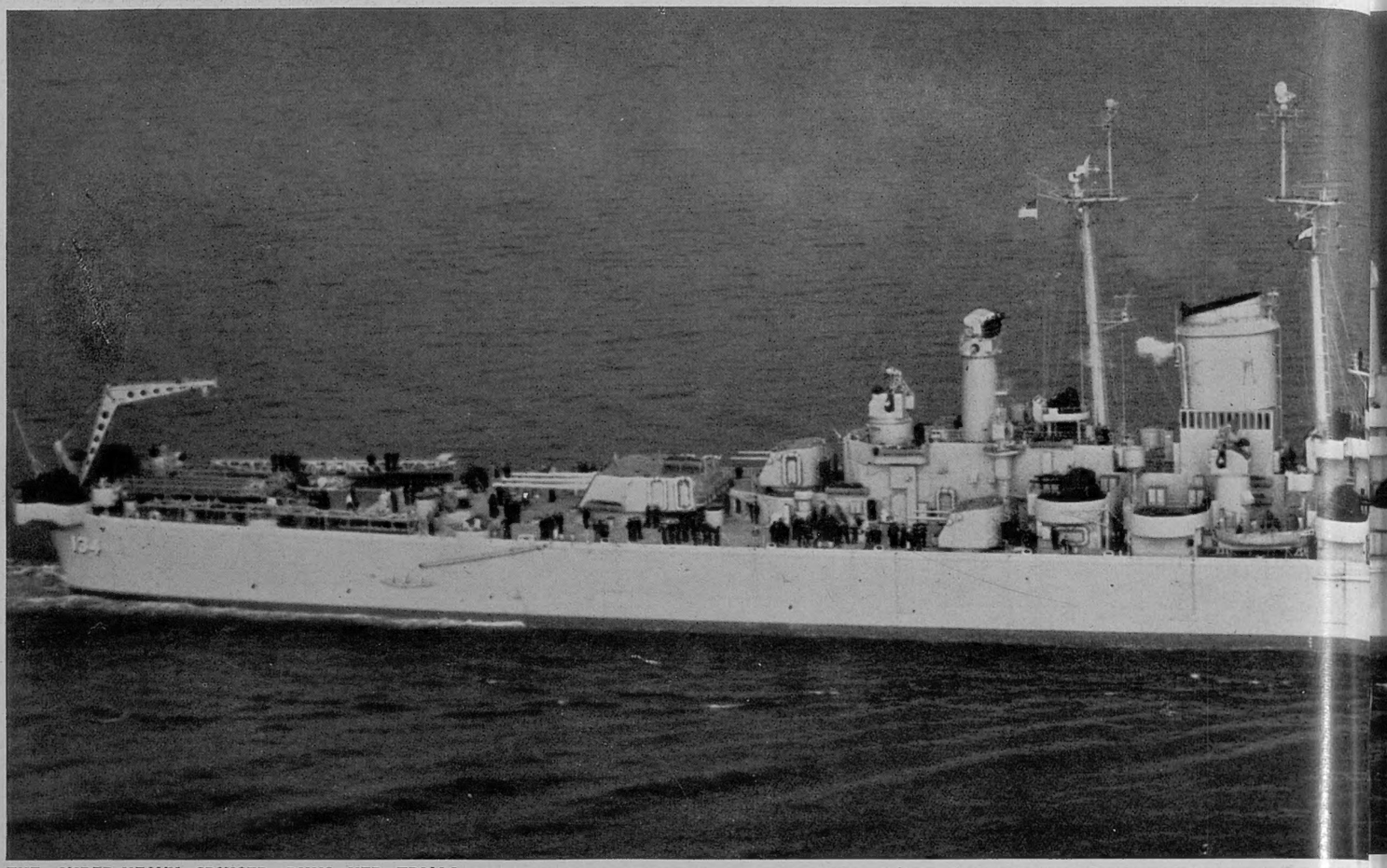


THE "QUEEN MARY" RETURNING TO HER HOME PORT: The 81,000-ton liner seen from the air as she recrossed the Channel last week after grounding during a storm off Cherbourg. The "Queen Mary" was floated from the sandbank after a fifteen-minute effort at high tide, but it was thought advisable to bring her back to Southampton for a detailed inspection before sailing. After the inspections on Sunday and Monday, it was decided that she would sail on Tuesday. On board were 1,920 passengers, including Sir Alexander Cadogan, permanent delegate to the United Nations

# THE QUEEN MARY GROUNDED

## After Re-floating, the Liner Returns to Southampton

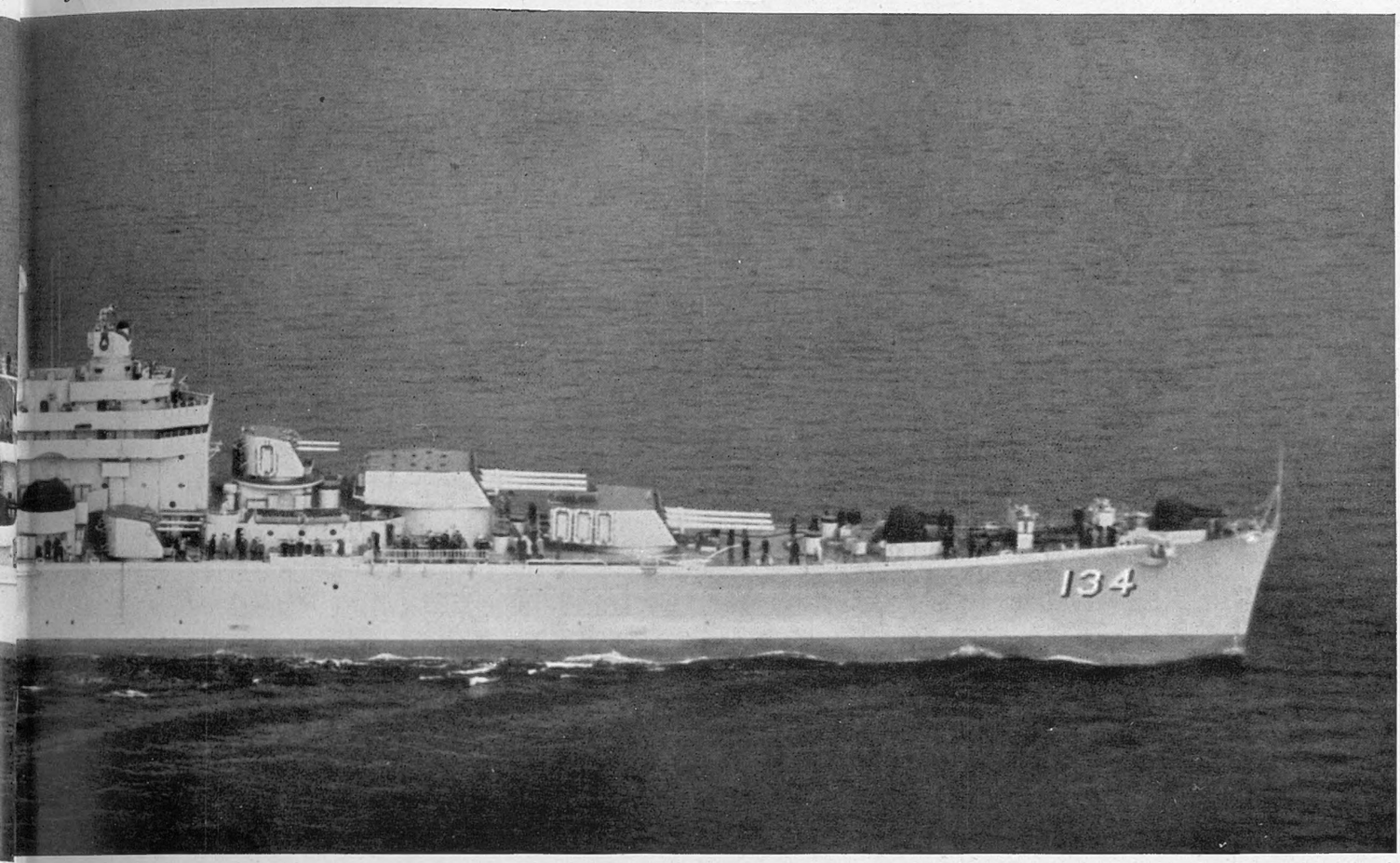
*On left*—LIGHTS BLAZE FROM THE "QUEEN MARY": The liner safely berthed at Southampton after her adventures off Cherbourg. The subsequent inspection below the water-line showed that an early sailing would be possible



**THE SUPER-HEAVY CRUISER RUNS HER TRIALS—THE U.S.S. "DES MOINES," OF 17,000 TONS, AT THE START OF HER TRIALS AFTER LEAVING THE YARDS AT QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS: She is rated as the world's most powerful heavy cruiser, and is the first to mount a battery of fully automatic rapid-fire 8-in. gu**

The U.S.S. *Des Moines*, the new super-heavy cruiser with new rapid-fire guns, was commissioned in mid-November at the Fore River Shipyard of the Bethlehem Steel Company, Quincy, Massachusetts, and has since run extensive trials in the open sea. She is the first of an entirely new class of 17,000-ton heavy cruisers to be commissioned, and her new 8-in. batteries are capable of firing at battle ranges approximately four times faster than any guns of the same or larger calibre. In these guns cartridge-cases have replaced wrapper charges, and shells have an automatic fuse-setting. Much extra tonnage is absorbed by rapid-loading gear and extra magazine space, but this in part has been saved by reduction in complement compared with the complement of the heavy cruisers of the very powerful Oregon City class. The only cruisers in the world heavier than the *Des Moines* are the three 27,500-ton battle cruisers of the Alaska class, which compared in size to Germany's 26,000-ton cruiser-line battleships, the *Gneisenau* and *Scharnhorst*. In addition to her main battery, which is triple-mounted in three turrets, the *Des Moines* is armed with a secondary battery of twelve dual-purpose, twin-mount 5-in. guns. and an anti-aircraft battery of twenty dual-purpose twin-mount 3-in. guns, plus 20 mm automatic machine-guns. Two sister-ships of the *Des Moines* are still under construction. The U.S.S. *Salem* is scheduled to be completed this spring at the Fore River Shipyard, Quincy; and the U.S.S. *Newport News* early this year at Newport News, Virginia.

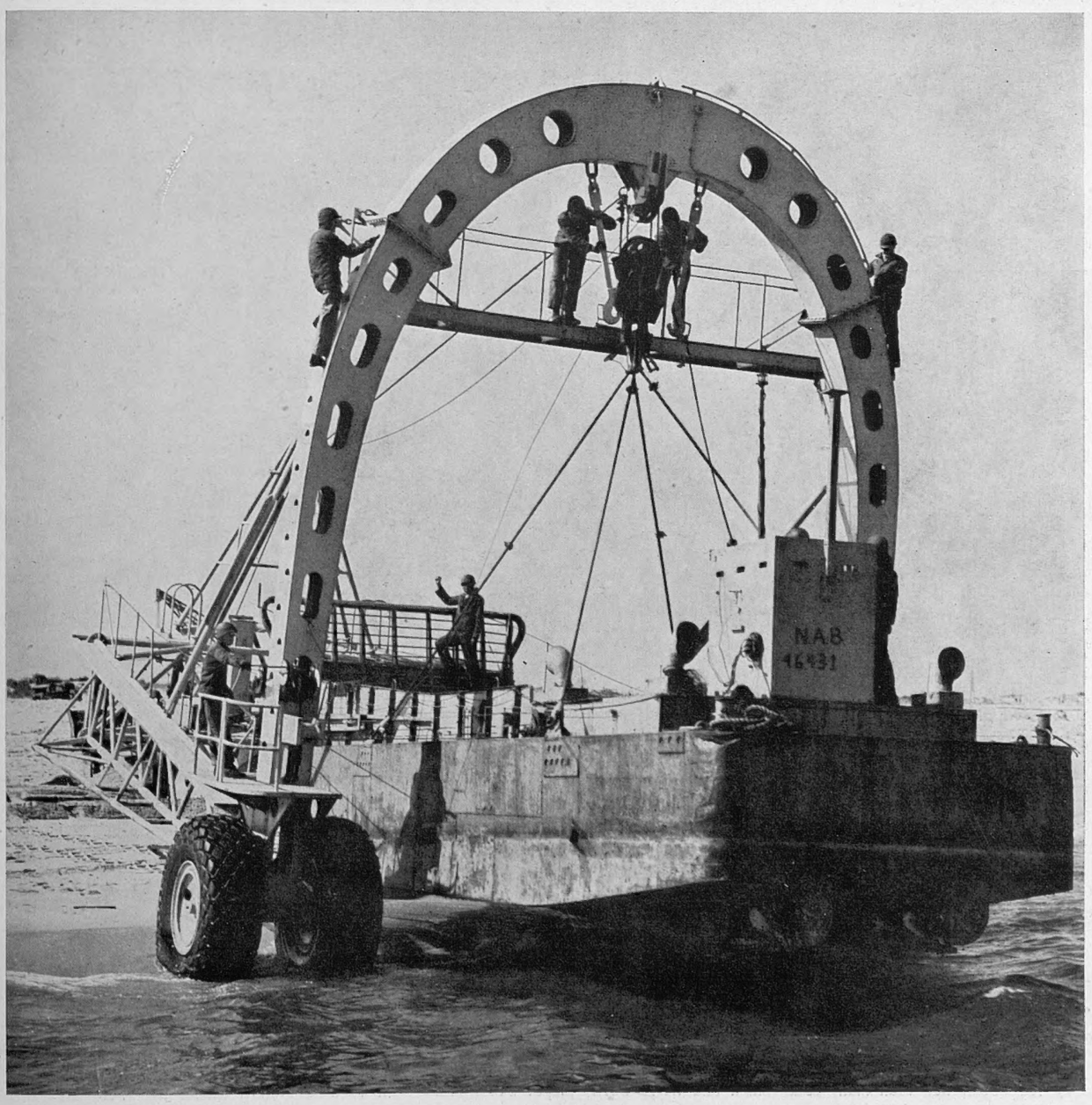
**THE GILHOIST CRANE—A SUCCESSFUL ENGINEERING CONTRAPTION FOR SALVAGING DAMAGED SURF CRAFT: A damaged L.C.M., weighing 30 tons, is here seen being hoisted into the horseshoe-shape sling of the Gilhoist crane during amphibious training manœuvres which were held at the United States Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Virginia. The Gilhoist crane weighs only 19 tons. The bulldozer, seen in the foreground of the picture, provides the winching and towing power**




# "DES MOINES"

## THE MOST POWERFUL HEAVY CRUISER

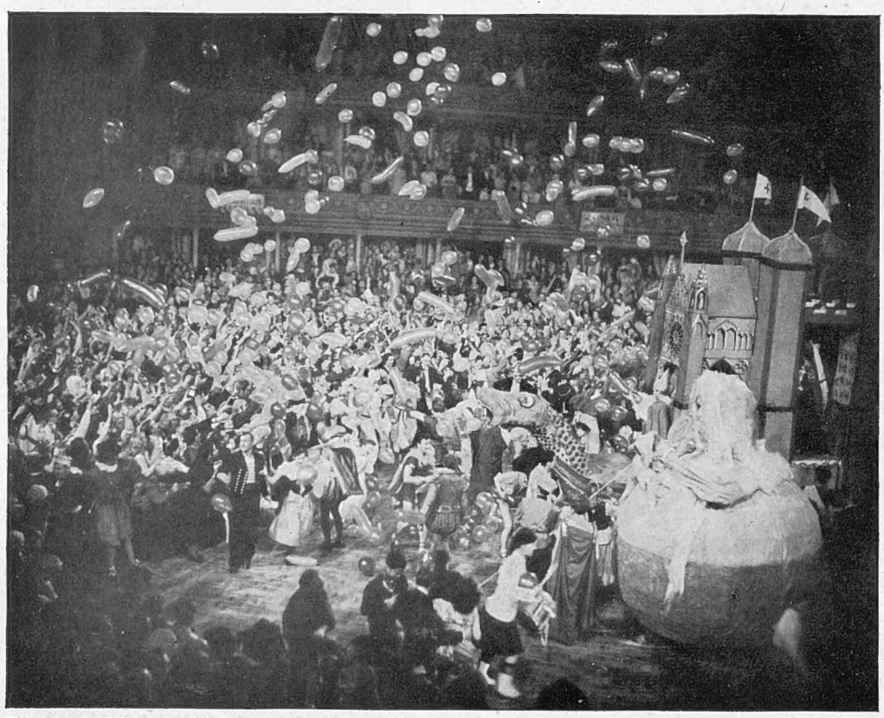
Resembling a giant horseshoe, the Gilhoist crane has proved successful in salvaging naval surf craft. Capable of hoisting loads up to 75 tons, the Gilhoist crane is light in construction and highly manœuvrable. Weighing only 19 tons, it has successfully passed tests, in soft and hard-packed beaches, salvaging craft which have become damaged during operations. First developed as a substitute for the marine railway, the crane was designed by Lieut.-Commander H. H. Gilbert, U.S.N., under order of the Bureau of Ships, and was used in experimental stages at advance bases during the latter part of the war. The Gilhoist, when in operation, is run out into the surf with the open end of the horseshoe sling toward the damaged craft, to which a single cable is attached. The craft is then guided into the sling and raised out of the water. An attendant bulldozer supplies the power for pulling the crane with its charge ashore, where high-speed repairs can then be made to the damaged craft.

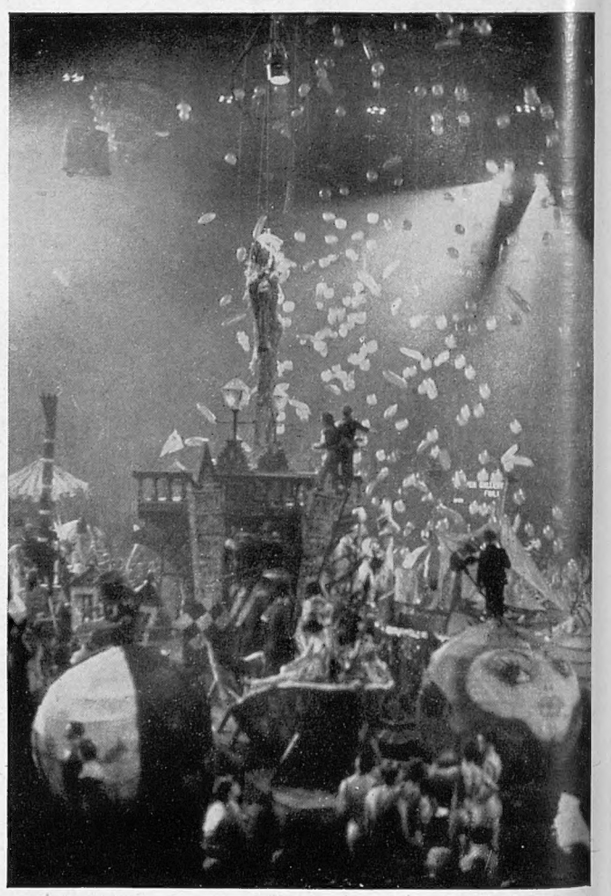



*On right*—
**CLEARING A CASUALTY: The Gilhoist crane with a damaged landing craft slung beneath its horseshoe**

# HERALDING the NEW YEAR at the CHELSEA ARTS BALL

PIPERS OF THE CAMERON HIGHLANDERS HERALD THE NEW YEAR AT THE CHELSEA ARTS BALL: The theme of the ball was "London River," and the great backcloth, designed by Stephen Spurrier, A.R.A., R.G.A., was dominated by the figure of Henry VIII. Six thousand people attended the ball



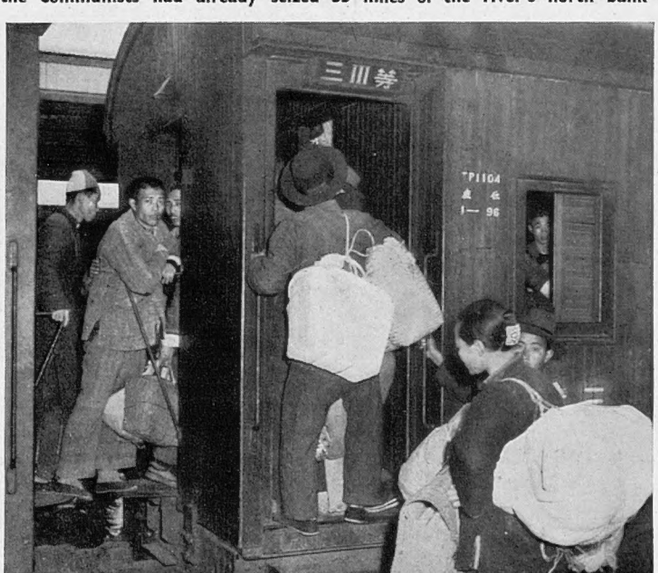


THE BALLOONS DESCEND AS MIDNIGHT STRIKES: The hundreds of balloons added to the colourfulness of the scene and were awaited by the great crowd, who burst them as soon as they came within reach. The varied costumes were well up to standard and there was less rowdyism than usual. The centrepiece on the theme of "London River" was a 40-ft.-high model representing the River Thames, surmounted by a figure of Old Father Thames. Three bands, conducted by Ted Heath, Nat Younkman, Oscar Rabin and Harry Davis, played dance music from 10 o'clock on December 31, 1948, until 5 a.m. on January 1, 1949

**THE CITY OF SHANGHAI AS THE CHINESE CRISIS NEARED ITS HEIGHT : This dramatic picture of the Suchow Creek, in the heart of Shanghai, shows sampans and other craft, many of them house-boats, crowding the waterway beneath the arches of the Chapoo Road bridge. Their owners had fled in these boats to avoid engulfment by the Communist armies heading southward. When this picture was taken China was preparing for the Yangtze battles, and reports were current that the Communists had already seized 35 miles of the river's north bank**

# CHAOS in CHINA

## Boats Crowd the Soochow Creek on the Eve of the Yangtze Battle



**THE TWO-WAY TRADERS OF SHANGHAI GO ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS : As the crisis mounted in China these traders were increasingly active. Their purpose is to buy goods cheaply in Shanghai and sell them to farmers in exchange for farm produce. They then return to Shanghai and sell the farm produce at vastly inflated prices. *Left*—Two-way traders lining up for train tickets at a Shanghai station. *Right*—The traders going aboard a train**

*On left*—Evidence of the mounting chaos in China is provided by the pictures on this page showing the crowded Suchow Creek and the activities of the two-way traders. These traders are taking the fullest advantage of the plight of the people in Shanghai. They find no difficulty in buying goods cheaply in the city, choosing such articles as razors, pocket-knives, torches, safety-pins, which do not take up too much room, and selling these profitably to the farmers in outlying districts. The subsequent re-sale of the farm produce in Shanghai produces a rich reward in gold yuan. It is not as simple as it appears, owing to difficulties in the purchase of railway tickets and in the boarding of trains which are crammed to capacity with refugees. The traders have more than one kind of enemy, receiving the attentions of pickpockets and members of the Yellow Ox Gang, which is immersed in Black Marketeering on a highly organised scale. In the picture on the left of this page is the ticket queue which, in addition to traders, is often thronged with members of this notorious Yellow Ox Gang. Further evidence of the prevailing chaos in China will be found on the following pages, which include pictures of the fighting north of Nanking

# HONG-KONG HAS CAUSE FOR CONCERN

## As the Communists Head for South China

By FERDINAND TUOHY

FORTY months after the fabulous island was retrieved for Britain, thanks to Admiral Fraser's dash across the sea from Tokio Bay, Hong-Kong scans the horizon afresh with mounting interest not untinged by anxiety; but this time eyes are focussed on the Chinese mainland.

It is not a new experience. Twenty-one years ago, Hong-Kong had cause to be concerned for the same reason as now. That was when the Borodin-controlled "Nationalists" were sweeping about South China. The inverted commas are used because those forces of the Kuomintang had passed under the control of Borodin and his agents from Moscow, who had been engaged as advisers by Dr. Sun Yat-sen.

In the autumn of 1926 this army, preceded and flanked by bands of propagandists, had marched north from Canton and seized Hankow, and early the following year it pushed down the Yangtse and took Nanking. That was what set afoot the Shanghai Defence Force of 20,000 British, Indian, American and French Annamite troops behind barbed wire. It didn't have to fire a shot, but its existence meant much—especially to Hong-Kong.

But what made Hong-Kong breathe freely again, twenty-one years ago, was Chinese by origin. In May 1927 General Chiang Kai-shek told Borodin to go about his business and drove all his agents out of China, the effect of which was to cause the Communist movement in South China to melt away.

There must be many sentient beings in Hong-Kong who, far from being deceived by local boom times, are well aware of two additional grounds for concern to-day: the poor chance of Chiang or someone like him repeating the victory of 1927, and the demise in the interval of the foreign concessions and extraterritoriality. If not directly involved in the latter, the Colony was buttressed by its play elsewhere.

One could add a third fresh cause for concern in the crammed state of Hong-Kong and the unhealthy, feverish note of excitement prevailing there. "Daily [we are told] the local Press publishes disquieting news from the Chinese battlefront, but with the announcement of each new Nationalist reverse, Hong-Kong gets gayer and wilder."

It seems that an "It can't happen here" attitude is partly responsible. A Chinese merchant millionaire is quoted as asking rhetorically: "What if the Communists do take Southern China? That is China's war. Why should they violate British territory?" To be sure, a comforting line of thought, and one which the Chinese Communists have done nothing to jolt. Indeed, the absence of hostile references to Hong-Kong in their propaganda has been so marked as, possibly, to lull.

Yet one has only to look below the surface and the explanation is plain enough: Hong-Kong has been useful to the Communists, and still is. Their policy is to go on nursing it. They expect to get more smuggled gold and currency via the Colony; they can maintain contact with shipping which does not call at Chinese ports and, perhaps, acquire special war supplies; Hong-Kong is an obvious centre for the contending Intelligence services; and it is the easiest of places to seep into *à la* Trojan Horse.

Militarily speaking, Hong-Kong gives small ground for complacency. The island has been called indefensible, but whether that be true or not, the rapidity with which it changed hands in 1942 must have made a profound impression on Chinese, as on other students of war.

The existence of a striking air arm would make a lot of difference, but, in default of room on the island, an airfield on the Kowloon mainland is the only alternative; and although 200 square miles beyond Kowloon was demanded by, and ceded to, Britain in 1894, precisely in order to strengthen Hong-Kong's defences, sanction for this mainland air-base has not been forthcoming.

Here we come up with the historic side of Hong-Kong's short, sharp and brilliant career, which cannot be ignored with impunity now that a new situation is developing, since even the moderately friendly and understanding Chiang Kai-shek recorded his view that Hong-Kong's future is wrapped up with that of China as a whole—a sentiment in which the Chinese Communists would more than acquiesce.

One has, in fact, to face the possibility that Nationalists and Communists will coalesce again, as they did under Borodin, and that, meanwhile, each side may be introducing agents and agitators into the Colony with the idea of weakening it from within.

Hong-Kong poses an extremely interesting question—namely, whether a territory acquired by treaty and developed from zero—but from *zero*—can be claimed back by the nation to which it once adhered as a swamp when it has become one of the brilliant ports of the world, thanks to the efforts of a second nation, in this case Britain.

The British merchants of Canton went to Hong-Kong in the partially miscalled Opium War of 1839-42 only because they were driven out of Canton and Portuguese Macao in fear of their lives by the violence of the Chinese Commissioner Lin. Probably no one in Peking had ever heard of the place when it was subsequently ceded to Britain. It was then a barren, feverstricken rock, inhabited only by a few fishermen and pirates.

The Chinese answer will doubtless be again what it has intermittently been in the years between: that we and other foreigners had no right to be in China a century ago, that the "foreign devils" were frequently, forcibly and picturesquely told they weren't wanted.

A fair-minded authority to listen to in the whole matter is Mr. O. M. Green ("The Foreigner in China").

Two subsequent victorious wars alongside the French made Britain No. 1 Power in China, and Hong-Kong enjoyed a golden age as a result, parallel to the rise of Shanghai. The island Colony only waxed in importance as headquarters of the Royal Navy, and the seat of a garrison much coveted through the successive Far Eastern wars in which China, Japan and Russia were involved. The Boxer Rebellion in the north, and the repercussions of the Great War, left Hong-Kong untouched.

Sun Yat-sen was one who paid tribute to the British at Hong-Kong. He wondered "how foreigners, Englishmen, could do such things as they had done with the barren rock of Hong-Kong within seventy or eighty years, while in 4,000 years China had no place like Hong-Kong. . . . I began to study the Government there. I found that among Government officials corruption was the exception and purity the rule."

The reflection may be filled out by a contributor to *The Times* in the sad days of 1942:

"There are roads, schools and hospitals. At Hong-Kong there is a university for Chinese providing among other things one of the best medical degrees of the Far East. There are laws that protect rich and poor alike, whatever their creed or race and the colour of their skins. There are magistrates with whose judgments no executive power can interfere. There are no political prisoners, no secret police prying and spying as in Japan, nor bandits and pirates to prey on the unwary as in China.

"Such usages of civilisation and decency have been scarce in the Far East. The British administrations did not find them ready-grown like plums waiting to be picked. They had to be organised and built and then maintained with patient efficiency. It is noteworthy that this progress was accomplished on the basis of equal opportunity for all. Some of the largest commercial fortunes were amassed by Chinese."

And here is Mr. Green writing nostalgically in the same year: "To-day Hong-Kong is one of the loveliest places in the world. The bare mountains are clad to the top in trees and flowers and dotted with the palatial white homes of wealthy merchants; the strip of beach is crowded with houses and offices and lined with wharves; the harbour is alive with the ships of all nations, and the opposite shore of Kowloon hums with the activities of factories, mills and dockyards."

The three years of Japanese occupation put a term to that bright picture. Yet the real damage was done as the invaders caved in. British marines found a Hong-Kong in 1945, well-looted and filthily dirty, with Victoria swarming with footpads. Principally the Chinese tenements had suffered—partly by bombs, partly in the looting of timber.

Followed the times of exhilaration which are by no means terminated, despite the lowering clouds . . .

The Colony's trade and shipping returns have shot ahead, and what is particularly noteworthy is that China lately represented only about 34 per cent. and 30 per cent. respectively of imports and exports. Trade with the Commonwealth nations, and with the United States, has rocketed, while other countries to do increasing business with Hong-Kong are Switzerland, France, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Norway, Portugal and Spain.

Valuable oils, such as tung, are the Colony's most important export; then come piece goods and textiles, foodstuffs, paper and paper-ware, wearing apparel, chemicals and drugs, Chinese medicines, dyeing and tanning goods. Imports include tobacco, motor vehicles and livestock.

About the only disagreeable change since the liberation has been the introduction of income tax to balance a heavy Budget deficit. Yet two big underlying anxieties are the overcrowding and the fear that Britain may yield to clamour and return Hong-Kong to some Chinese regime. The latter fear interferes with industrial and other development. As for the crammed state of the tiny territory, the population has risen from under 1,000,000 in 1939 to over 2,000,000, and still they come pouring in from China. Chinese, British, Americans, White Russians, Indians, people from all over the continent of Europe, rub shoulders. The Chinese are in two distinct categories—native and immigrant. The influx of monied Chinese families from Nanking and Shanghai has made a marked difference, the women being very much more sophisticated than the local variety.

Prices are sky-high, and everything is to be had at a price. The shops "could do honour to Bond Street." The American influence is strong, though small numerically. The feverish dance goes on night and day; all the food and drink one could want.

Surely the future of Hong-Kong cannot be dissociated from that of the Western European and American possessions or spheres in the Far East and South-East Asia as a whole? If the nations that are trying to get into an Atlantic Alliance cannot pull together in the East, they are likely to lose eventually, and separately, what they hold there.

A battalion of the Gurkhas has gone to Hong-Kong to reinforce the small garrison. There can be much in the mere display, as Shanghai proved beyond doubt in the past. But Hong-Kong, world port, surely calls for some deep thinking—not only by Great Britain.

**STAMPEDING THE SHANGHAI BANKS: Mounted police in action against the crowds who were thronging the business district in attempts to obtain forms to exchange gold yuan for gold under the terms of the Nationalist Government's latest stabilisation scheme. Only the forbearance of police and garrison authorities prevented a terrible tragedy.** An announcement that some 10,000 forms would be distributed led to the assembly of huge crowds ready to spend the night outside the issuing banks, in spite of heavy rain and the 11 p.m. curfew. With the dawn these crowds grew rapidly until there were probably 200,000 people assembled on the Bund and in adjoining streets, which became well-nigh impassable. Shopkeepers boarded up their windows and conducted business through narrowly opened front doors. The huge, good-tempered crowds were so dense that many people were crushed and trampled on, and it is officially admitted that seven were killed and twenty-one injured. The Government's scheme was to endeavour to stabilise the gold yuan by sales of gold bars and silver coins

**NATIONALIST TROOPS GO NORTH TO MAN THE NANKING DEFENCES AND REFUGEES POUR SOUTH BEFORE THE COMMUNIST SURGE:** *Left*—Reinforcements leaving Pukow Railway Station to take their places in the fighting line. They were hurried forward in order to attempt to prevent the Communists from driving a wedge between Pengpu and Pukow. *Right*—Refugees and Nationalist troops at Pukow Railway Station. Pukow lies just north of Nanking on the main line to Peiping. It has lately been the scene of chaotic conditions owing to the number of refugees pouring through and tending to disrupt military traffic

**A MOUNTED PATROL RIDING IN THE STREETS OF NANKING:** Cavalrymen who did guard duty in the city during the anxious days at the end of the year as refugees poured through. In front of Nanking the Nationalists were busily preparing after Christmas for a final stand

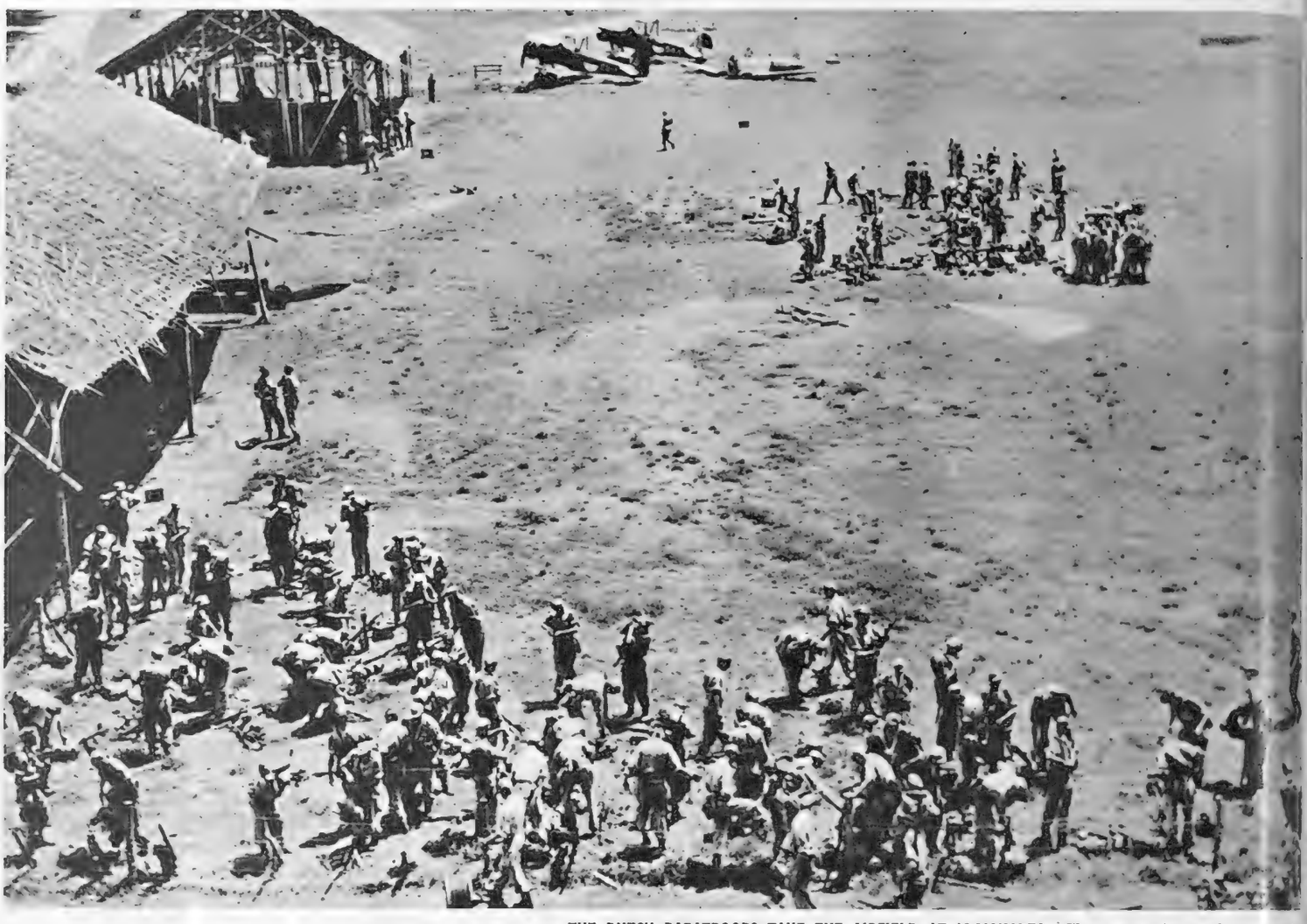
# THE TIDE of BATTLE ROLLS SOUTH

## Aspects of the Chinese Civil War at the Turn of the Year

"The Government is tottering and will soon fall," proclaimed the Chinese Communist wireless at the turn of the year, and there were indeed signs of complete disruption on all fronts in the civil war. Peiping and Tientsin were virtually isolated, while before Nanking the Nationalists, badly cut up in the Pengpu fighting, were hastily regrouping for a last stand on the Yangtse. Nobody in Nanking, or Shanghai for that matter, really believed that the Nationalists could hold on. Since November 7 the Nationalists have lost 400,000 men in killed, injured, prisoners of war and deserters, and three whole army groups.

**HUNGER OF THE MASSES:** An angry crowd threatening a police officer in the bread line outside a shop in Shanghai. The shortage has been growing daily more acute, and bread riots are a regular occurrence

**A DETACHMENT OF AMERICAN MARINES ARRIVES IN SHANGHAI:** The Marines on the deck of the United States transport "Bayfield" when the ship came in from Tsingtao. It has since been their task to protect American lives and property



**THE DUTCH PARATROOPS TAKE THE AIRFIELD AT JOGJAKARTA : The men, who made a surprise attack and were the spearhead of the Dutch action in Indonesia, secured the airfield intact. Following them came airborne troops who were brought in while the paratroops defended the perimeter of the airfield.** Later the advance was continued into the Indonesian capital of Jogjakarta, where Dr. Soekarno, the Republican President, and several of the Republican Ministers were arrested. The Dutch action caused an immediate outcry throughout the world, with the new Republics of South-East Asia particularly vociferous in their denunciations of the "Netherlands Imperialists." While the matter was before the Security Council of the United Nations, the Dutch continued their "police action"

*War in Indonesia*

# PARATROOPS DESCEND ON JOGJAKARTA

**AFTER THE FALL OF THE INDONESIAN CAPITAL : The Commander of the Dutch forces, General Spoor (right) congratulating Colonel C. W. Van der Eem, Commander of the Dutch Air Force units, after the latter had successfully landed his paratroops at Jogjakarta, capturing the airfield and afterwards penetrating to the city**

**PRESIDENT SOEKARNO CHEERFULLY YIELDS TO HIS CAPTORS : The President of the Indonesian Republic driving from his residence in a jeep after the capture of his capital of Jogjakarta. Since Dr. Soekarno's capture assurances have been sought from the Dutch regarding the treatment of the Republican prisoners they have made**

**DUTCH TROOPS ADVANCE THROUGH THE STREETS OF JOGJAKARTA : The men, in heavily camouflaged battledress, advanced into the city as if prepared for house-clearing activities and some fierce fighting. As things turned out, complete surprise was obtained**

EN ROUTE TO INTERNMENT : Mr. A. K. Pringodigdo (right), Republican Minister of State, seen in Jogjakarta after his capture by the Dutch. When this picture was taken he was accompanying his family to a place of internment. Among the other Republicans who were arrested in the surprise attack were Dr. Hatta, the Prime Minister of the Indonesian Republic, Dr. Sjahrir, a former Prime Minister, and Dr. Agoes Salim, the Foreign Minister

THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS SUMMONED HASTILY TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF INDONESIA : A general view of the Christmastide emergency session at the Palais de Chaillot, in Paris, when there was widespread denunciation of the Dutch action. In fact, no voice was raised in extenuation of the Dutch. The Soviet Union, dismissing the American call for "cease fire" proposals as too feeble, called for a strong denunciation of colonial aggression and the dispatch of a full committee of the Council to restore the situation

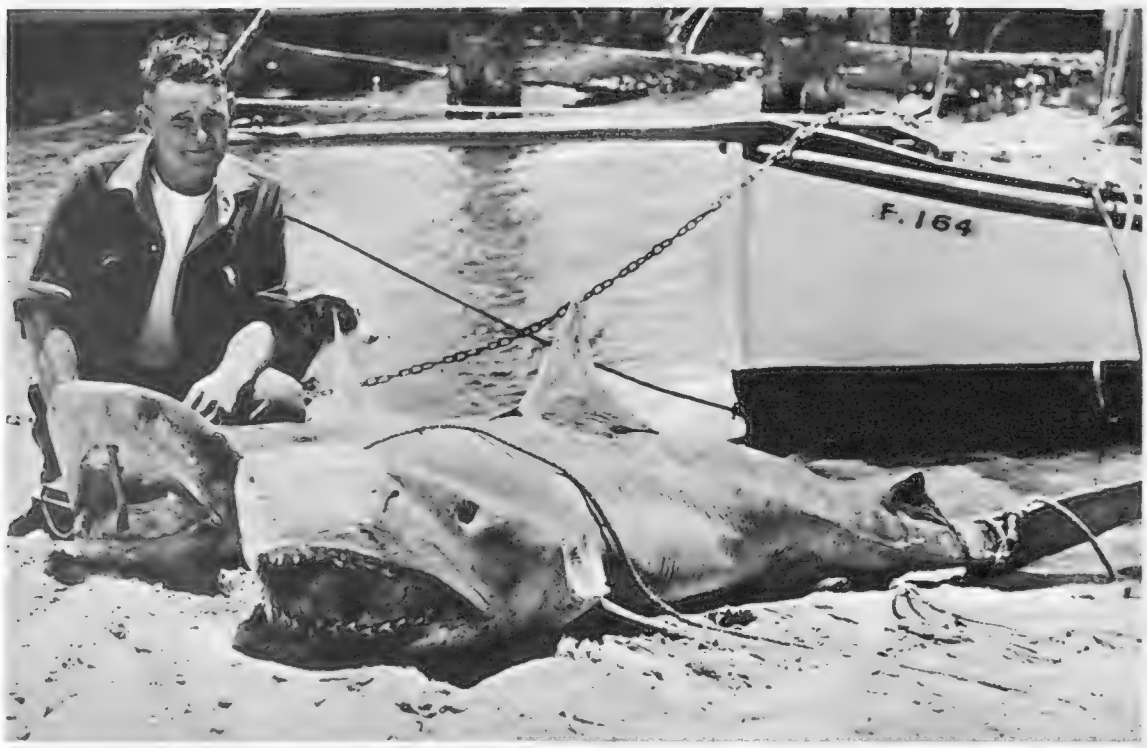
THE CAUTIOUS ADVANCE INTO JOGJAKARTA—A UNIT COMMANDER'S JEEP BY THE ROADSIDE AS THE DUTCH TROOPS GRADUALLY PENETRATED THE CAPITAL, A MOVEMENT DESCRIBED BY THE DUTCH AS "POLICE" ACTION, BUT INVOLVING A TOTAL OF 250,000 MEN OPERATING BY LAND, SEA AND AIR : Both Java and Sumatra were involved in the fighting, but at no point does it appear to have been of a very fierce character. In Sumatra, airborne troops used seaplanes

**ROME PREPARES WELL IN ADVANCE FOR THE INVASION OF THE HOLY YEAR : Situated in the vicinity of St. Peter's, this hotel, now in course of construction, will accommodate 400 visitors. In addition, it will contain a theatre for religious performances and lectures. How many people will visit Rome in the Holy Year it is impossible to say, but throughout 1950 there will be a constant flow of pilgrims, who will, of course, tend to congregate in the neighbourhood of the Vatican, focal point of the main religious celebrations**

*A Foreign News Survey*

# THE WAY OF THE WORLD

**AN AMERICAN SAINT : Signor Assen Peikov puts the finishing touches to the clay model of his 10-ft. statue now being completed in Rome under the surveillance of the Capuchins.** The statue is of the Rev. Stephen Eckert, the Capuchin monk who died in Milwaukee in 1923. It has been commissioned by the St. Benedict Mission for Coloured People in Milwaukee, where the Rev. Eckert—who may be beatified next year—spent the last twenty-five years of his life in working for the coloured folk




**THE NELSON TOUCH WITH SHARKS : Mr. Ted Nelson, of Perth, Western Australia, with a tiger shark (nearest camera) weighing 900 lb. and 13 ft. in length, and a 500-lb. shark 11 ft. long. These are only two of the 113 sharks caught by Mr. Nelson off Perth's swimming beaches in a single week in December. Nelson uses set lines which he inspects every morning. He markets the sharks for their meat and oil products**

**HEROES OF THE UNFINISHED SECOND TEST: England's opening batsmen, Cyril Washbrook and Len Hutton, who in the Second Test Match at Johannesburg were at the top of their form, scoring 359 runs for the first wicket**

**SWITZERLAND'S FIRST SNOW—THE HORSE-DRAWN SLEDGES APPEAR ONCE AGAIN IN ST. MORITZ, THE CAPITAL OF WINTER SPORT : *Left*—Sledges plying for hire in the streets. *Right*—The St. Moritz Municipal Band welcoming the first snow, always a great occasion, as it means that the tourists will soon be on their way. The first falls in December were not to any great depth, and at the time of writing ski-ing has been possible only on the higher slopes of St. Moritz**

**THE MAN WHO MURDERED THE EGYPTIAN PREMIER, NOKRASHY PASHA : Abdel Hamid Ahmed Hassan, a veterinary student, aged twenty-one, and a member of the Muslim Brotherhood, being taken into custody after firing pistol-shots into his victim at point-blank range.** Hassan was dressed as a police officer, and thus gained admittance to the Ministry of the Interior, where he did the deed. Nokrashy Pasha died almost immediately. The Muslim Brotherhood was dissolved by Nokrashy Pasha last month, as it had become a serious danger to the State

**KING ABDULLAH OF TRANSJORDAN PAYS A VISIT TO THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY AT BETHLEHEM : The King with the Papal Legate in the course of his tour, which took him on a two-day journey through the Arab-held areas of Palestine.** Shouts of "Hail, King of Palestine and Transjordan!" greeted him along the route

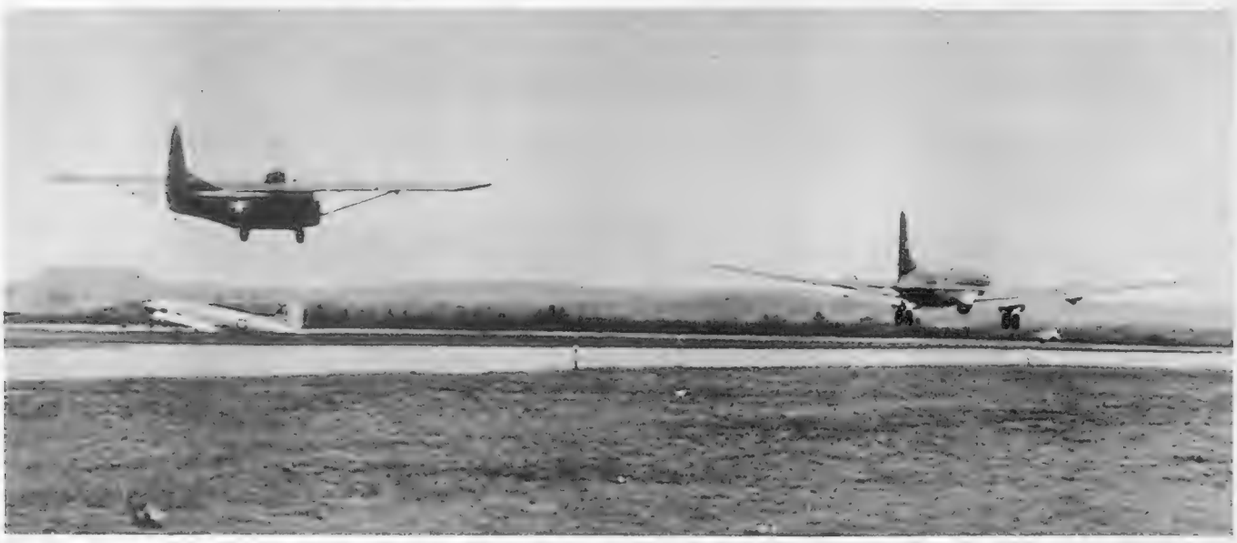
**COSTA RICAN VOLUNTEERS REST IN THE BACK AREAS AFTER THEIR FIGHT TO REPEL THE REBEL INVADERS WHO CAME ACROSS THE NICARAGUAN BORDER : The volunteers seen at their encampment. On the line above them hangs their dried-meat ration. An all-American investigating committee has found that the invasion of Costa Rica was led by Costa Rican political exiles, and it has criticised Nicaragua because it took no action to prevent the organisation of the invasion or to stop it from crossing into Costa Rica.** The Committee found, however, that the Nicaraguan Government had not been a party to the plans. The invasion took place shortly after a Presidential announcement disbanding the Costa Rican Army. The President stated that the country, being peace-loving, had no need of an army, and that security would be maintained by police. (In 1948 there were five weeks of civil war brought about by the refusal of President Picado to recognise the election of his successor)

**ADMIRAL NICHOLAS HORTHY LEAVES FOR SWITZERLAND : The former Regent of Hungary, accompanied by his wife and daughter-in-law, bidding good-bye to friends as they left Munich, where they have been since the war.** They are going to Portugal and hope eventually to settle in Brazil. Horthy was for twenty-four years Regent of Hungary, the so-called "monarchy with a vacant throne," and later he collaborated with Hitler. In 1947 he was alleged to be the centre of a plot to restore the Hungarian Monarchy

**GATEWAY TO THE NEW INDIA : This decorative bamboo arch, surmounted by a map of the Indian sub-continent, was erected at Gandhinagar, Jaipur, for the first Plenary Session of the 55th Congress Party to be held since India achieved Independence. The place selected for the session was given the name Gandhinagar in honour of Gandhi**

**THE FORWARD HALF OF THE "CAPITAN" BEING TOWED OFF CAPE HATTERAS : The Argentine vessel broke in half as it was being towed from Savannah to the Baltimore shipyards. Two men can be seen still aboard her. Coastguardsmen rescued sixteen members of the crew from the forward half during a gale, but two men were reported lost at sea or aboard the missing stern half of the ship**

**MAROONED ON THE GREENLAND ICE CAP—THE SCENE ROUND THE CRASHED AMERICAN TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT, WHERE SEVEN MEN WERE STRANDED ON DECEMBER 9: On December 13 two would-be rescuers in a B 17 aircraft were added to the total of the stranded, and two more landed in a glider on December 17, but could not be got off again.** The original seven and the later arrivals spent Christmas awaiting rescue. Christmas dinners were dropped to them by parachute and several talked with their families by wireless. In the first of the attempts at rescue a B 17 was employed. Other attempts were made with gliders, and the successful rescue was accomplished with a C 47 which had jet-assisted take-off and skis. In this picture can be seen the snow-house which the airmen built to the rear of the wrecked transport.



**START OF THE SECOND RESCUE MISSION TO THE GREENLAND ICE CAP: A C 54 towing a glider as it took off from Westover, Massachusetts, en route to Greenland to help in the rescue of the airmen marooned on the ice cap. The attempts with towed gliders failed. In two pictures on the following pages a successful rescue with a glider is depicted. This was on the scene of the Yukon crash**

## TWO DRAMATIC ARCTIC RESCUES

In the Yukon and the Greenland Ice Cap

THE ATTEMPT THAT FAILED: When this glider landed on the Greenland ice cap it was hoped that it would bring to safety the airmen from the wrecked C 47 who had been marooned since December 9 and also their would-be rescuers who were marooned on December 13. The glider, however, failed to take off

THE FIRST ARCTIC GLIDER RESCUE—HOW SIX OCCUPANTS OF A C 47 TRANSPORT WERE BROUGHT TO SAFETY WITH THE AID OF A GLIDER TOWED BY A C 54 OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE: *Left*—The crashed transport on the frozen Stewart River. *Right*—The rescue glider viewed from the rescue plane after picking up the six men. The pick-up of the glider from the curving and tree-bordered river was unusually difficult, and it was only after four tries that the C 54 accomplished it. The C 47 landed on the ice after the pilot had lost his way. The crash landing took place at 7.30 in the evening, and the crew was brought to safety 17½ hours later. In the picture on the left smoke flares (the airmen's call for help) can be seen rising from the edge of the wood

# SIX MONTHS OF "AIR-LIFT"

## How the Challenge Has Been Met, and Other News from Berlin

**THE TEMPELHOF UNDER ITS FIRST LIGHT COVERING OF SNOW: The airport in the American sector of Berlin, with numerous vehicle tracks evidencing the activity at this terminal point of the air-lift which has been playing a major part in the freight service. There was no snow in Berlin during the Christmas period, when the first six months of the air-lift were completed, and, indeed, the twenty-four hours from noon on Christmas Day constituted the fifth best flying day since the air-lift began on June 26. By December 26, 96,640 flights had been made from the British and American Zones of Occupation to the three aerodromes of Berlin**

**WHERE THE FRENCH SECTOR AND THE RUSSIAN ZONE MEET: A Red Army barricade placed in position between Berlin and the village of Stolpe, which the French have now handed back to the Russians.** This area of 350 acres was originally lent to the French by the Russians for the construction of an airport, but having built the new air-lift airport at Tegel, the French have no further need of the Stolpe site. Four hundred German residents in Stolpe claim that they have been abandoned by the French and have been forced to live behind the Iron Curtain

**GUARDS OF THE THREE WESTERN POWERS ON DUTY OUTSIDE THE ALLIED KOMMANDATURA: Not only has the Kommandatura been reconstituted, but the door has been left open for the return of the Russians in the event of a rapprochement in Berlin**

**RE-CREATING THE ALLIED CONTROL SYSTEM IN BERLIN: General Ganeval, of France, chairman of the Kommandatura, announcing the resumption of the Berlin Kommandatura in company with Major-General E. O. Herbert (left) and William T. Babcock (U.S. Deputy Commandant)**

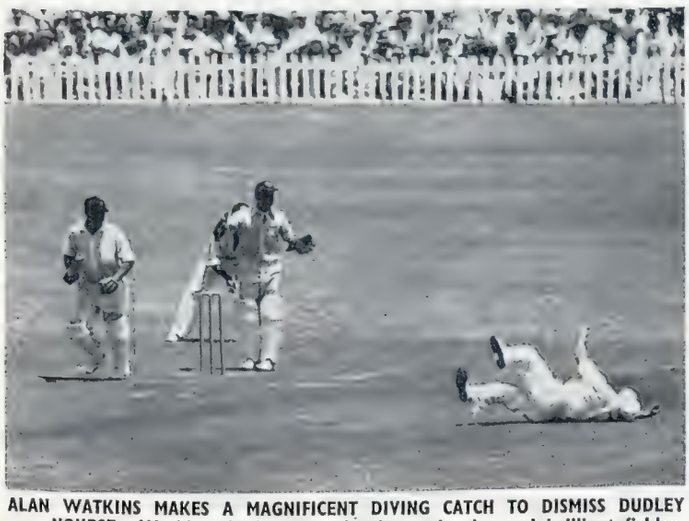
**VICTIM OF THE LEG TRAP — DENIS COMPTON MAKES THE CATCH THAT DISMISSED OWEN WYNNE : Compton is seen (extreme left) juggling with the ball, which he held fast at the second attempt after Wynne had hooked Alec Bedser's delivery hard to leg.** From this moment in the first Test Match at Durban, England was on the attack, and it was only in the last two hours of the match that South Africa challenged strongly. In the end England won by two wickets in a thrilling finish, decided by the last ball of the day, which yielded a leg-bye, the one run still needed to pass the South African total

**WATKINS AND COMPTON AT THE WICKET :** The left-hander (seen on left) has just spooned a ball short of Rowan and Nourse, while Compton looks on. In this first innings Watkins was out for 9, but Compton, in contributing a valuable 72 on a wicket offering every assistance to the bowlers, truly laid the foundation of the English victory. He tried every trick in his repertoire

# ENGLAND'S LAST-BALL TEST TRIUMPH

## A Brilliant Feat on the Kingsmead Ground at Durban

The first Test Match in South Africa, which England entered with modest hopes, ended like a schoolboy thriller, and in the last hour of the day fortunes swung both ways before finally England clinched the victory. As Gladwin swung wildly the ball bounced off his legs. Bedser hurtled down the pitch. There was a desperate scramble for the creases, and a near run-out; and so ended the most breath-taking Test of all time. Among the heroes were Compton and Watkins, who, apart from their other virtues, have helped to bring the English fielding almost into line with Australian standards



**ALAN WATKINS MAKES A MAGNIFICENT DIVING CATCH TO DISMISS DUDLEY NOURSE : Watkins, both as steady change bowler and brilliant fielder, has been an immense asset to the M.C.C. touring side, and not the least of his achievements was this highly spectacular catch**

**JENKINS IS CAUGHT BY BRUCE MITCHELL : This was on the third day's play, when England managed to pass the South African total when playing on an immensely difficult wicket. The wicket-keeper is W. W. Wade, and the South African all-rounder, Dawson, is on the right, closely watching his confrere Mitchell**

# AFRICA IN TRANSITION

## Native Reactions to the March of Progress

British East Africa is involve in a vast scheme of develop ment. Whatever the merits o the groundnut-sunflower scheme however much it may be derided it is not to be doubted that it impact upon standards of livi and ways of life in East Africa wi be tremendous. In the pas twenty years or so many of th Kenyan natives have develope from the primitive tribal sta through the aid of the network mission schools, and there is n doubt that that process is going t be speeded up vastly as ne wealth flows into East Africa i the form of wages, and flows ou in the form of fats and othe vitally needed staple food product How some natives respond to th European stimulus and other remain comparatively isolated fro it is evidenced in the pictures o these pages taken for the mo part in the region of Nairo and also the hinterland of th Kenya-Tanganyika border.

**LEARNING TO MAKE AND MEND AT JEANES' SCHOOL, KABETE: Young African women attending a sewing class. Their partiality for gaily-coloured clothes is well known, and they reveal a natural aptitude with the needle.** These young women are typical of tens of thousands who are coming under the new influences in Kenya, and who are reacting steadily to higher standards of education and higher standards of living. Kabete, for many years a Roman Catholic Mission station, is situated just to the north-west of Nairobi in an area of immense natural resources

**LEARNING THE ART OF WELDING AT THE EX-SERVICEMAN'S TRAINING CENTRE AT KABETE: These students respond well to "education through the hands." Their enthusiasm for engineering pursuits was only equalled by their extraordinary keenness in the days of war, when they took an infinite pride and delight in drilling and wearing uniform. Training in craftsmanship by visual aids and by example and practice is widely thought to be the key to true educational progress in Africa**

A MASSAI WARRIOR OF THE EAST AFRICAN PLAINS : He belongs to a great fighting race which has settled down quietly enough under British rule in Kenya, but has not responded, however, to European influences. He carries a pom-pom, symbol of his peaceful intentions

THE ISOLATIONISTS : Two typical members of a tribe who prefer to be left to their own devices and have shown no wish to join in Government schemes to turn them into "useful members of the community." The chief occupation of the Massais is stock-breeding. Once, as warriors, they were dreaded over a wide area, pillaging and firing villages wherever they went; now they occupy a reserve in the Nairobi region

A BUKURIA WOMAN FROM THE KENYA-TANGANYIKA BORDER : She wears her finery in the traditional manner of her tribe. The necklaces and bands round her shaved head were originally bought from caravans journeying in from the coast. The heavy bracelets were put on her arms when young, hence the distortion. The ears are decorated with torch batteries

HE STILL HUNTS AND FIGHTS WITH THE WEAPONS OF HIS ANCESTORS : A Luo warrior bearing his great shield made of cattle hide. The Luo, who are far from hostile despite the appearance of their warriors, live on the shores of Lake Victoria. Some are engaged in fishing and others are big cattle-raisers. It may be a long while yet before their way of living is affected by new conditions in East Africa

THE CHILDREN'S MEET OF THE CHIDDINGFOLD: Some of the young entry who gathered at Blackheath, near Guildford, for the after-Christmas meet of this famous Surrey farmers' pack. The Chiddingfold were fortunate, as many packs had to cancel meets on account of very heavy frost, which also interfered with Boxing Day racing

# THE BOXING DAY MEETS

## After-Christmas Hunting in Surrey and Gloucestershire

*On right*—THE BOXING DAY MEET OF THE COTSWOLD: A large crowd of spectators watching the hunt moving down the Promenade at Cheltenham. It was the first time since 1938 that this traditional Boxing Day gathering had been held in Cheltenham. As in the past, the riders were almost engulfed by the volume of spectators

PRINCE CHARLES RECEIVES THE PRESS: The son of Princess Elizabeth as he appeared in one of the photographs which were not due for release until January 2, but were printed in advance by the French newspaper "Samedi Soir." Over 100 pictures of Prince Charles were taken on this occasion

# PRINCE CHARLES: THE NEW PICTURES

## The First Showing Him with His Eyes Open

Prince Charles, as the most publicised baby in the world, gave a camera interview just before Christmas, and when the resulting pictures were published it was announced that an embargo was placed upon them until January 2, as it was said that the Royal Family wished to have them published simultaneously throughout the world. The Paris newspaper *Samedi Soir* decided to take no notice of the embargo, and the result was an exclusive presentation of the pictures. Paris *Soir*, the French daily newspaper, also decided to publish the pictures as the embargo had not been respected, most of the British Press then following suit. Last weekend there was considerable controversy in newspaper circles on the whole question of giving pictures release dates and asking foreign newspapers to accept those dates.

PRINCE CHARLES WITH HIS MOTHER: The baby, second in succession to the Throne, and heir to the Dukedom of Edinburgh, seen with Princess Elizabeth leaning over the cot. His names are Charles Philip Arthur George

"HIS EYES ARE BLUE, AND HE RESEMBLES HIS GRANDMOTHER, QUEEN ELIZABETH": This was the verdict of Mr. Cecil Beaton, the photographer, who took the pictures of Prince Charles and who added, further: "He is quite an active baby and did the normal amount of crying while I was taking the pictures"

MAKING THEIR BOW TO SOCIETY : Part of the gathering of 127 young ladies who made their debut at the Debutante Cotillion in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York. Elders watched the rather sedate fun from their tables, grouped round the ballroom floor. While all went smoothly enough at the Ball, some of the debutantes had no easy task getting to and from the Waldorf Astoria, as New York had been inundated with 20 ins. of snow, third heaviest fall in the city's history

## From the NEW WORLD

Manhattan Endures a White Christmas ; The Two "Queens" Docked in New York

FROM BLAZING INFERNO TO ICICLE PALACE : Water cascading over the façades of these shops at Minneapolis produced this remarkable Christmas Day picture. The fire started in the Music-Box Bar near the Niccolet Hotel, and the water from the firemen's hoses froze almost immediately

HEAVY GOING IN KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK : Cars battling their way along Queen's Boulevard, 75th Street, during the height of the great storm which produced 20 ins. of snow in twenty-four hours. The blizzard failed to stop the bustling life of the city, but many motorists had to dig their vehicles out from huge drifts which collected in all the side streets of the city and suburbs

THE "QUEENS" TOGETHER AGAIN IN NEW YORK—THE "QUEEN MARY" (FOREGROUND) AND "QUEEN ELIZABETH" AT THEIR PIERS IN MANHATTAN: It is rare for these two ocean giants to be in the same port at the same time, and the last occasion in New York was during the war years, when they were both acting as troopships. Only a few days before this picture was taken the two "Queens" had been held up at Southampton by the seamen's strike

NEW YORK HAD A WHITE CHRISTMAS AND MANHATTAN'S MAIN STREETS WERE A SEA OF MUD AND SLUSH: During the height of the blizzard the city authorities hastily summoned 18,000 workers, who got to work with snow-ploughs and other equipment, and in quick time rendered all the main streets passable. The huge drifts in the side streets could not be dealt with immediately, but this example of civic promptitude—a result of experience gained in the Boxing Day blizzard of 1947—kept traffic on the move. Subway trains operated almost normally. The city's two great airports were completely snowbound

**PRINCESS ELIZABETH MAKES HER FIRST EVENING APPEARANCE SINCE THE BIRTH OF PRINCE CHARLES : H.R.H. visited the Paris Cinema, in Lower Regent Street, with the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and Princess Margaret to see the B.B.C. broadcast of the popular programme, "Much Binding in the Marsh." Richard Murdoch and Kenneth Horne, stars of the show, joked about the Royal visit and many listeners telephoned the B.B.C. to inquire which royalty were there**

**THE CHURCHILLS GO TO MONTE CARLO : Mrs. Winston Churchill, with her right arm in a sling, and her daughter, Mrs. Oliver, before leaving Victoria for the South of France.** Mr. Churchill is to be the guest of *Life* and the *New York Times* while he stays on the Riviera and works on his memoirs. The party travelled in a special coach attached to the Calais-Mediterranean express. They broke the journey at Paris, where Mr. Churchill received a warm welcome accompanied by enthusiastic cries of "*Vive Churchill!*"

# HOME NEWS AT THE TURN OF THE YEAR

**THE TWENTY-YEAR-OLD TAY FERRY "B. L. NAIRN" IS DUE FOR RETIREMENT : The vessel has done sterling service but is being replaced by modern radar-equipped boats.** Captain L. J. D. Whitelaw, skipper of Tay ferries for over thirteen years, has declared that with three modern radar-equipped boats he could guarantee a twenty-minute service in all weathers during the day and an hourly run during the night. His confidence in radar is borne out by the record of the Dundee-Newport ferry service which ran to schedule during the recent heavy fogs with only one minor mishap, using radar-equipped ferries

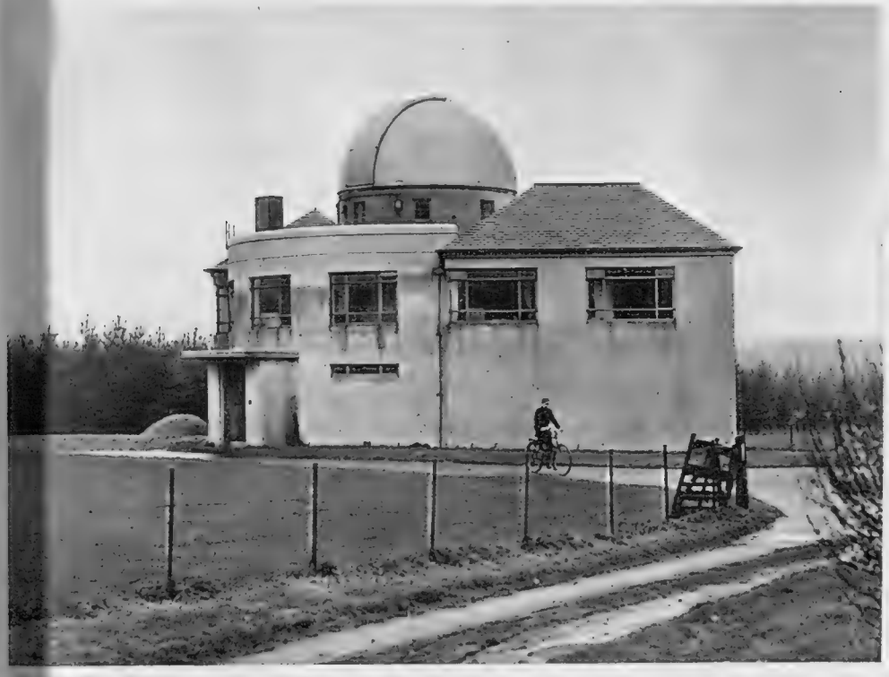
**THE BARTON SWING BRIDGE RAMMED BY THE CARGO SHIP "WESTMOUNT PARK" : The accident occurred during heavy rain on a night of last week. Two buses and a motor-car were on the bridge at the time but avoided mishap.** The bridge, which carries main-road traffic from Lancashire to the South of England over the Manchester Ship Canal, was closed to canal traffic at the time. The 4,000-ton *Westmount Park*, which was empty, cut through a 10-ft. section of the brick archway which joins the steel structure of the Barton swing bridge. She was only slightly damaged, being holed above the water-line, and the tugs guiding her were undamaged. The bridge was quickly repaired and shipping traffic resumed, but use of the road was restricted to single-line traffic weighing less than two tons

**LORD BURGHLEY ADDRESSES SPECTATORS AT THE BOXING DAY MEETING OF THE EAST SUSSEX FOXHOUNDS AT BATTLE ABBEY, IN SUSSEX, ON THE PETITION AGAINST THE PROPOSED BLOOD SPORTS BILL : He made his speech from the saddle and was listened to by members of the hunt as well as the large crowd of bystanders on the Abbey green in front of the fourteenth-century gateway. Lord Burghley is Joint-Master of the East Sussex Foxhounds. Frost prevented hunting, but he made good use of the opportunity to canvass signatures for the petition**

**1949 COINS WITH "IND. IMP." OMITTED : Last year, a Royal Proclamation ordered that the words "Indiæ Imperator" be omitted, so far as convenient, in all instruments on which the Royal Style and Titles are used**

**RITA HAYWORTH ON HER ARRIVAL AT QUEENSTOWN, EIRE: She had travelled from America on the liner "Britannic" to spend a "quiet holiday."** The name of Rita Hayworth ex-wife of Orson Welles, has been linked romantically with that of Prince Aly Khan and many photographs of them together in America have been published. At Christmas they left the *Britannic*, on which they had both travelled from New York, at Queenstown and separately made their way to Giltown Farm, Aly Khan's Irish home and celebrated racing stables, 30 miles from Dublin. After Christmas they left for Paris by plane, but the journey was broken when they were forced down at Croydon

**SLEEPY, BUT HAPPY: Hypnotist Richard Payne demonstrates his powers before a responsive audience at the Chevrons Club in Dorset Square.** Hypnotism is in the news of late. It has been used experimentally for the extraction of teeth and by doctors. The stage has seen some remarkable acts, including that of Mr. Richard Payne. Here he has put members of the audience to sleep and, in another demonstration, he convinced a subject, supported between two chairs, that he was an iron girder and two men stood on him



**ST. ANDREWS OBSERVATORY, EDINBURGH, WHICH IS TO HAVE A NEW 38-IN. CAMERA-RECORDER: The telescope will not be completed until 1952, and the new dome will adjoin the existing one shown in this picture.** Dr. E. Finlay-Freundlich, of St. Andrews Observatory, speaking of the new camera-recorder, said that it would have a six-degree field of vision, giving a camera-plate coverage of 16 square inches, and that the information gained from such a plate would be considerable. Two telescopes are being built at St. Andrews. The first, a model having a 19-in. lens, should be completed next year and will be installed at the Mills Observatory, Dundee. The second telescope is the 38-in. camera-recorder for the St. Andrews Observatory

**A KEY MAN IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW CAMERA-RECORDER: R. L. Waland (right) is chief engineer-designer of the camera-recorder. He is seen with an assistant adjusting a lens grinder which took eighteen months to build**

**AMERICA'S AIR CHIEFS VISIT ENGLAND: Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Tedder talks with United States Secretary of Air, Mr. W. Stuart Symington (left) and Lieut.-General John K. Cannon, Commander of the U.S.A.F. in Europe (right). Mr. Symington and General Cannon, after visiting Germany to examine the air-lift situation, carried out inspections of the considerable U.S. air bases now established in East Anglia**

**SOCCER BETWEEN THE SEXES: This unusual football match was played at Worthing during the Christmas holidays between a ladies' team and a team of veterans. The veterans played with one eye covered and their wrists tied, and they made their throw-ins backwards. The ladies also threw in backwards and between their legs. Penalties for fouls were: male—to play the remainder of the match barefoot; female—to drink from a baby's bottle. Half-time was described as consisting of forty-five minutes of "organised chaos"**

# 30,000 YEARS OF ART

## Modern and Primitive Art Contrasted at a London Exhibition

SPANNING 30,000 YEARS OF ARTISTIC EFFORT: A general view at the Academy Hall, Oxford Street, W., where the Institute of Contemporary Arts has arranged an exhibition as a comparison of primitive and modern works, including new and excellent coloured photographs of the earliest Aurignacian paintings (circa 30,000 B.C.). Mr. Herbert Reed, in a preface to the catalogue, suggests that primitive and modern men alike suffer from a "cosmic anguish" which demands expression in abstract forms

CONTRASTS IN CULTURE FOR THE EDIFICATION OF LONDON ART LOVERS: *Left*—This composite wood carving was carved by natives of Nigeria, while on the *right* is Henri Breszka's "Red Stone Dancer," one of the most modern of all the figures at the Academy Hall Exhibition of "40,000 Years of Modern Art." Some of the artistic modes of distortion revealed by the exhibition are remarkably alike, even though there is often 20,000 or 30,000 years between them. Not all the critics have been disposed to take the exhibition seriously, and it has been pointed out that it probably does not span the 40,000 years claimed for it

"BIRD BASKET," BY HENRY MOORE : This extraordinary piece of work was created by Moore in 1939. This artist is full of surprises for his devotees

"THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE" : This hideous mask was made by natives of Vancouver Island. The vast lips, deep eye sockets and wisp of hair give it an utterly grotesque appearance

PICASSO'S "LES DEMOISELLES D'AVIGNON" : The New York Museum of Modern Art lent this huge canvas to the Academy Hall. It hangs in the exhibition near Negro sculptures of the kind from which the Spanish painter drew his inspiration for this "particular piece of cosmic anguish." Picasso's modes of distortion, which are particularly evident on the right-hand side of the picture, were undoubtedly derived from Negro sources. The picture, valued at £7,500, has never previously left New York

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT AT THE ACADEMY HALL : *Left*—This plaster figure by Alberto Giacomettia stands over 5 ft. high. It is one of the modern exhibits. On the *right* are figures from the Ivory Coast, from French Guinea and Nigeria, in all of which the element of distortion is plainly established

# THE ALBERT HALL BOOKS INTO 1950

## The Continuing Popularity of a Versatile Building

By CHARLES GRAVES

ALTHOUGH I am writing this in only the first week of January, 1949, the Albert Hall management has received enough inquiries to book the building solid until June of 1950. And the only reason why there are still vacancies after that date is that Mr. C. S. Taylor, the manager, has deliberately refused to book more than eighteen months ahead.

The Albert Hall has already recovered from the Chelsea Arts Ball and the Workers' Travel Association Ball, the preparations for which began on Monday of last week. The ordinary fee for a function lasting three hours is 150 guineas (compared with £115 two years ago), provided that there has to be no special alterations in the way of seats, platforms and scenery. In the case of the Chelsea Arts Ball and the Workers' Travel Association Ball, the organisers have had to pay, naturally enough, for all the affairs which would otherwise have taken place last week, as well as for all the spectacular sets used on the specially-laid-down dance floor.

The accounts for 1948 will not be out for another month, but it can be assumed that they will vary very little, if at all, from those of the previous year, when the Albert Hall was booked for no fewer than 362 different affairs in spite of the need to close it for a month every year for the annual summer cleaning.

The Albert Hall has always been one of the most versatile buildings in the world. Every kind of crank, concert promoter, choral society, boxing promoter, learned society, drapery store, welfare organisation has hired it when available, and will continue to do so. Since the destruction of Queen's Hall, however, a strong preponderance in favour of musical functions has been evident. In fact, only one affair in six is non-musical. It has become, in fact, the backbone of London's music with the Royal Philharmonic Society, the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the B.B.C. Symphony Concerts and the "Proms" all migrating there. What will happen when the new Queen's Hall arises in 1950 is anybody's guess. In the meantime, however, public meetings have decreased in popularity with the growing habit of politicians talking on the radio instead of attending public meetings. The people who collect at the Albert Hall do so to discuss matters, not for the purpose of being addressed by some public figure. Typical examples of this are the annual conferences of the British Legion and the National Federation of Women's Institutes. Mr. Taylor is suitably impartial in his views of these and all other functions which take place in the Albert Hall. His attitude is that it is no affair of his what goes on, provided that the law is not broken. The excellence or otherwise of the programmes is, of course, no affair of his. (I dare not give his comment on the Chelsea Arts Ball on New Year's Eve.)

Of the different days of the week—Thursday, Saturday and Sunday are the most in demand; Mondays and Fridays being least popular because of the mistaken idea that people still go away for the week-end. Sunday afternoons are automatically under the ægis of Harold Holt, like Thursday evenings when the London Philharmonic gives its weekly concert.

Every kind of spectacle has been staged at the Albert Hall, the most lavish of all having been the Red Army Day Pageant organised by the Ministry of Information during the war. In a single week last year there was an orchestral concert on the Sunday afternoon, with Evangelical meetings all day on Monday. The Communist Party met there on the Tuesday night, followed smartly by the National Union of Spiritualists on the Wednesday. Thursday—the usual orchestral concert—was followed on the Friday by the Army Boxing Championships, with 5,000 A.T.S. holding a reunion on the Saturday.

These reunions are a comparatively new and interesting activity of the Albert Hall. Field Marshal Montgomery's Eighth Army Reunion in celebration of El Alamein has been copied by the Reunions of the Desert Air Force, the Fourteenth Army and the Royal Naval Old Comrades' Association. In a few weeks' time there will be the Reunion of the Pathfinders from Bomber Command.

The building is not much used in the mornings, unless it is an all-day affair, like a Salvation Army meeting, though children's orchestral concerts sometimes take place before lunch.

One of the more notable events of the past year was the installation of his Majesty the King as the new Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England.

The smallest attendance at any meeting held in recent years was of the so-called Vigilantes, of whom barely 300 were present.

There are still 1,300 of the original 1,340 private stalls still in private hands, but their value alters astonishingly from month to month. A few weeks ago a pair of them was sold for £950. Since then two others were withdrawn when the top price offered was only £200 apiece. The Albert Hall management cannot itself buy them in quantities, because it is acting technically for the seat holders.

**NOVA PILBEAM IS LACED BY SOPHIE STEWART DURING THE TELEVISING OF "A CENTURY OF PARTY DRESSES": Many stage and screen stars took part in the television programme from Alexandra Palace to demonstrate how mothers and daughters have dressed themselves for Christmas parties since the 1840's. Included in the programme were Oriel Ross, Sheila Sim, Marie Gerthe, Dorothy Hyson and Irene Prador, Lilli Palmer's sister who now has a growing B.B.C. following**

Incidentally, there are only 400 holders of the 1,300 seats, none of whom receives a penny profit except from what he can make out of leasing the stalls to promoters of the various events which take place during the year. Any surplus is earmarked for maintenance and improvement of the fabric of the building.

Already a start has been made on the reconditioning of the inner dome. The structure itself is perfectly sound although three-quarters of a century old, but a good deal of war damage remains to be repaired. Much of the glass is broken or missing, and constant attention is needed to keep it reasonably watertight. The work now being done involves the removal of the glass and its supports and the substitution of perforated aluminium on which a layer of rock wool, a mineral fibre something like asbestos, will rest. The use of the rock wool is anticipated to produce two incidental advantages: it is a good heat insulator and should prevent the loss of warmth at present caused by the cooling effect of a large area of glass; and, being a good sound absorbent, it should eliminate as much of the famous echo as is due to the dome. (Unfortunately most of the echo is caused by the hard plaster high up above the auditorium.) In consequence of the new changes it will be possible to get rid of the large canvas velarium which hangs beneath the dome and reveal a more elegant ceiling than has been displayed for many years. To eliminate the echo altogether would cost something in the neighbourhood of £9,000.

In the meantime, the Albert Hall has had a fully-equipped restaurant, the Prince Consort Room, ever since the "Proms," and three-course dinners are served to anyone attending a concert. At any given moment there are 100 people employed in the building: commissionaires, cleaners, plumbers, electricians, boilermen, carpenters and clerical staff. Their wages bill is naturally considerable. Against this, however, the rent is exactly one shilling a year, payable to the Commissioners of the 1851 Exhibition, the ground landlords.

The original Albert Hall was suggested by the Prince Consort as part of a scheme for using the surplus funds of the Great Exhibition. The idea was to provide some large central hall useful for lectures, prize-givings and the arts and sciences generally. The Prince Consort, however, died before this scheme could be put into effect, and it was left to a committee under the Prince of Wales to develop the Gore House Estate and build the Hall. To-day the building is busier than it has ever been, in spite of the lack of science and art meetings. Apart from the concerts, Jack Solomons holds professional boxing tournaments seven or eight times a year. (He provides his own organist—as Jeff Dickson used to do for the purpose of drowning the boos at unpopular decisions.)

The Boy Scout Movement has had a complete week of pageant. The Boys' Brigade stages competitions of squad drill. The British Legion holds its annual Festival of Remembrance in November with a party of standard bearers. Toc H appears occasionally for religious services. The English Folk Dancing Society goes through its peculiar gyrations there. Billy Butlin has an annual dance and reunion of his campers every February with dancing and the Dagenham Girl Pipers, to whom the Albert Hall must be almost a second home. Altogether the demand for holding functions is such that Mr. Taylor has to reject at least as many as he accepts, though he will not explain the basis of his varying attitudes to different promotions.

The next three weeks from January 8 onwards is typical of the present-day trend of the Albert Hall. To-day, the Royal Choral Society presents the *Messiah*. To-morrow is the London Symphony Orchestra, with Peter Stadlen as solo pianist. All next week come the Henry Wood Promenade Concerts, followed on Saturday with a return visit of the Royal Choral Society. On Sunday once again there is the London Symphony Orchestra in the afternoon, with a concert of Viennese music given by the Philharmonia Orchestra with Elisabeth Schwartzkopf at night. This is followed by another week of the "Proms," the London Symphony Orchestra with Pouishnoff, Jack Solomons' boxing tournaments, and Sir Malcolm Sargent conducting the London Symphony Orchestra, Ida Haendel being solo violinist. The last four days of the month are filled by the B.B.C. Symphony Orchestra, the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Scottish Clans Association of London presenting a Burns "Nicht" Concert, and the London Symphony Orchestra. I note that there is no fixture for Friday, January 28, but no doubt it takes a certain amount of time to prepare the floor for the piping and dancing to celebrate Burns warmly.

On an average there are nine functions a week, irrespective of the time of the year, but what goes on is entirely the affair of the promoters.

Personally, I have often thought that when newspapers attain a proper size again, a free-lance journalist who attached himself to the Albert Hall as resident reporter could probably make a small fortune.

**A SAILING-SHIP RIDES THE WAVES AND THE SENTRY MOVES ROUND THE TOWER:** This elaborate scenic music-box, mechanically-driven, is part of the magnificent collection of Mr. E. R. Pole at the exhibition of nineteenth-century musical-boxes at the Science Museum, South Kensington

**WHAT GRANDPAPA GAVE TO GRANDMAMA:** This elaborately-fashioned work-box conceals a spring-driven musical-box which plays when the lid and side panels are opened. At the same time the central figure on the box nods its head and plays tunefully upon a guitar

# PAGEANT of the MUSIC-BOX

**An Unusual Exhibition at the Science Museum, South Kensington**

The public-house and fun fair musical-box of the twentieth century, dispensing hot rhythm for a penny a time, has lost all touch with its remotest ancestor, the seventeenth-century barrel organ which used to be played in English churches, and with its refined Victorian predecessors, those neat little instruments, Swiss and French in origin, which played "The Old Hundredth," "Nancy Lee," and Planquette's music from *Les Cloches de Corneville* with clockwork regularity. Some of those earliest musical-boxes are now on view at a special Christmas holiday exhibition at the Science Museum, South Kensington, and both young and old who have already visited it can testify to its fascinating interest.

**ORNAMENTAL MUSIC-BOXES FOR THE NINETEENTH-CENTURY DRAWING-ROOM:** Left—"Balkan Lady." This lady shakes the tambourine and moves her head and left hand when mechanically operated. Centre—"The Jester." He plays the guitar, winks, puts his tongue out and moves his head and legs. He is also mechanically operated. Right—"The Eastern Girl." She mechanically moves her head, fans herself with her right hand and drinks tea

**WHEN THE CLOCKWORK IS SET GOING THEY BURST INTO SONG:** It is thought that this music-box, with its three tropical singing-birds in a cage, was sold with the Lyceum theatre "props"

**THE ACROBAT—AN ANIMATED FIGURE WHICH PERFORMS TO MUSIC:** The feature of this music-box is that after bowing low the acrobat moves her right hand and arm, and then slowly proceeds to balance horizontally on her left hand as seen in the picture *on the right.* Such instruments as this were at the height of their popularity in the '50's of the last century, and they were swept away by the popularity of the phonograph and the gramophone. Another music-box at the exhibition has a monkey which plays the fiddle

*New Lamps and Old*

# TROLLOPE'S NOT SO SPOTLESS HEROES

## Their Habitual and Rather Irritating Frailty

By JOHN GORE

TROLLOPE'S notice in *D.N.B.* occurs in Vol. XIX and was by Dr. Richard Garnett. It contained an appraisement worth quoting as a very sound judgment and a prophecy which modern critics have proved exactly true :—

"His work may fall into temporary oblivion, but when the twentieth century desires to estimate the nineteenth, his novels will be disinterred and studied with an attention accorded to no contemporary work of art except perhaps George Eliot's *Middlemarch*."

That judgment was published at the dawn of the present century and, forty years after, has been abundantly justified. Dr. Garnett refused to claim "genius" for Trollope. He "created" nothing, there was no imagination in him. But as a realist, as an absolutely faithful photographer of things as they were, he has no rival in literature. Such was Garnett's prophecy proved to the hilt. And that being so, we must wholly accept his estimate of Trollope's faithful realism or we must admit exceptions. For myself, I find ground for making a reservation in Trollope's treatment of so many of his young men in love, his young heroes engaged to marry charming young women. If Trollope is 100 per cent, faithful, scores of his young heroes were less than 50 per cent. faithful. If he is to be accepted as a sure interpreter of mid-Victorian youth of the upper and middle classes, then human nature made a swift change for the better. "To love one maiden only, cleave to her" was, *quâ* Tennyson, the rule at King Arthur's Court, but nothing in my experience in youth, or in what I have heard or read in family papers of the generation of my fathers, suggests that that admirable ideal was regarded by them, by us or by the present generation as an unattainable ideal, as a romantic and foolish legend. An important percentage of Trollope's novels suggest that in the mid-Victorian era, young men disregarded the rule of the Round Table *in toto*, scorned it, laughed at it, did not regard it as practical politics or a moral duty. The catalogue of Trollope's young delinquents, his gay Lotharios, is enormous and convincing. They adopt unvaryingly the same "sickening technique," they are never off with the old love before they are on with the new. With them, to be engaged to marry young women who utterly trust them, is a signal for philandering with another. The more delicious the object of their choice, the more vulgar or tiresome is their second string. Few novelists were so gentle with human frailty as Trollope, he saw good in every sinner and seldom, if ever, painted a completely black villain, always he redeemed him with some virtue, courage, generosity, faithfulness to some ideal. But in the treatment of his young men in love, he seems to have reversed the process and principle of British Law and treated them all as guilty before trial. In a word, he has in an overwhelmingly large number of instances assumed that flagrant unfaithfulness was a matter of course among engaged young men. Is this realism—accurate photography temp. 1860—or is it autobiographical? Trollope's own youthful experience, faithfully and frankly admitted, and adapted to the behaviour of a score of his own fictional heroes? For my part, nothing will induce me to believe that my grandfather and great uncles and their friends treated the young women to whom they were pledged as did the most famous of Trollope's young heroes.

**A Catalogue of Unfaithfulness.** — Phineas Finn was engaged to a charming little Irish girl. Distance and the estranging sea were perhaps almost equally habitual resignation and flabby obedience of his heroines.

But, worse than irritating, this frailty (like that resignation) strikes a false note. Nothing in my experience of their known characters, as revealed in their lives and their letters, will convince me that my grandparents and grand uncles (and aunts) were commonly furnished with those characteristics of unfaithfulness in love (and flabby resignation in the adversity of love). In this particular, Trollope is not an absolutely faithful photographer of things as they were; and I shrewdly suspect he was for once an "autobiographer." I fancy that an experience of his own youth created for him a rule in his dealing with young men in love in his fiction. There is no doubt that his money-lending and borrowing experiences in youth obsessed his mind all his life, and accounts for the persistent repetition of those

**OLD CHELSEA—A RIVER FRONTAGE RICH IN HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS : The prospect of Cheyne Walk between Albert Bridge and the Royal Hospital Road. This end of the frontage is to remain intact, but the area beyond Battersea Bridge may be drastically altered under the West Chelsea Development Scheme. The houses in the foreground of this picture cover what was once the New Manor of Chelsea, which was acquired by Henry VIII and adjoining it, and situated across what is now the river end of Oakley Street, was the palace of the Bishops of Winchester which flourished from 1664 to 1820. The balconied house (left centre) is still known as Don Saltero's, and stands on the site of a coffee-house established in 1695 by James Salter (a former servant of Sir Hans Sloane), who ran a museum on the spot and also drew people's teeth for nothing. The museum in its heyday boasted an astounding assemblage of oddities, including William the Conqueror's flaming sword**

**RESTORING A FAMED LANDMARK :** Emigrants who went to Australia and New Zealand years ago may contribute to the fund to restore the belfry of tiny St. Andrew's Waterside Mission Church at Gravesend, near the Estuary of the Thames. For years it was the practice to ring the bells of St. Andrew's as emigrant ships left the Thames, and for many of those who left, the church tower was their last sight of the Motherland, and the last sound was that of the bells. An appeal is to be launched on the other side of the world to raise the £450 needed for the work. An appeal for contributions has also been made to seamen throughout Britain. The tower is being pulled down, as it is considered dangerous

excuses for him. He made violent love to at least two women in England and one, Lady Laura, an utterly intolerable female. Johnny Eames, that model of "faithfulness," philandered with his landlady's daughter, a veritable Bloomsbury slut. (God knows, his Lily Dale would have been all the better for a whipping.) Frank Greystock, pledged to his Lucy, kissed and cuddled Lizzie Eustace. Francis Tregear, a shocking example, had the incredible fortune to win the love of Lady Mary Palliser, who stands out in Trollope's gallery of young charmers, but he could not keep away from wishy-washy Mabel. Frank Gresham was too weak to resist toying with the idea of Miss Dunstable's money, though he was pledged to Mary Thorne.

I could extend the list considerably. There are enough instances to create a rule. It is as if Trollope, as a habit, drew out of his box of tricks a young man in love and a pretty girl engaged to him, and then searched the receptacle for another female with whom the youth might practise his natural unfaithfulness. Now, to my mind, there is nothing in Trollope's art so irritating as this habitual frailty of his young men in love, unless it be the episodes ("*Do* be punctual") in the novels, concerned with backing bills and staving-off money lenders. While we accept his tolerance for the faults and frailties of mankind as proof of a noble character and a broad mind (in advance of his age), we cannot suffer this libel on the characters of our grandparents in love to pass unchallenged.

**The Austen Touch.**— For this tiresome habit of his is more than boring and irritating, it is a pernicious slander on a Victorian generation much more disciplined and quite as strong-charactered as our own or our father's generation. The truth, I am sure, is that Trollope was indeed a remarkable realist and faithful photographer of his age, but that he derives his data for these studies in realism much more from his own personal experiences than did his greater contemporaries, Thackeray and Dickens. His world was not nearly so large as theirs; his deductions owed much less than theirs did to a wide reading of the book of life.

Chesterton, in writing (as far as I remember) about Jane Austen's art, said that her form of genius was the power of *guessing right*. And this theory has some support from an examination of Trollope's high lights. When he touches subjects outside his own personal experience, he sometimes reveals this "Austen Touch" in a remarkable degree. It is improbable that (as an example) he ever was a frequent visitor at a Gatherum Castle or a Matchings or an intimate friend of a Duke of Omnium. Yet he never puts a foot wrong or strikes a false note with the old or the young Duke of Omnium or with their family life. In short, if he had allowed himself the luxury of guessing rather more often, he might have ranked much higher among the "great" novelists.

# THE TWO CINDERELLAS

## Frederick Ashton's Ballet at Covent Garden and the Pantomime at the London Palladium

COVENT GARDEN'S "CINDERELLA": Moira Shearer dances the name-part at the Royal Opera House. So immediate a success was the ballet that all performances were completely sold out within a few days and it was decided to perform "Cinderella" on all ballet nights for a further three weeks

THE LONDON PALLADIUM'S "CINDERELLA": Roma Beaumont is the Cinderella of the pantomime and is here rehearsing the attractively staged scene in which the gnomes and fairies dress her for the ball

London is well served with Cinderellas this season. At Covent Garden, Moira Shearer and Violetta Elvin take the part on alternate nights in Frederick Ashton's new three-act ballet. At the London Palladium, Roma Beaumont, as Cinderella, has Evelyn Laye for her Prince Charming and the support of Tommy Trinder as Buttons. The King's Theatre, at Hammersmith, has Joan Burden in the name-part and Clarkson Rose as the Baroness, and the "Q" Theatre, at Kew Bridge, provides a new production of James Barrie's *A Kiss for Cinderella*, with Penelope Bartley as Cinderella; Iris Baker as the Fairy Godmother, and Geoffrey Wardwell as the "most obscure person in *Who's Who*"

JUST BEFORE MIDNIGHT: THE FINALE OF ACT II IN THE "CINDERELLA" BALLET AT COVENT GARDEN: At the left centre of the picture is Violetta Elvin, who takes the name-part on alternate nights to Moira Shearer. The ballet, which is to the music of Prokofiev, has Robert Helpmann and Frederick Ashton as the ugly sisters; Michael Somes as Prince Charming; Pamela May as the Fairy Godmother; and Beryl Gray as the Winter Fairy

*The World of Books*—By VERNON FANE

# MIRABEAU, ARISTOCRATIC REVOLUTIONARY

*Antonina Vallentin's Life of the Man of Fiery Energy Who Might Have Averted the Reign of Terror*

IN the early days of the French Revolution, and before the fall of the Bastille, Mirabeau wrote: "It will be to the glory of France and of ourselves that this great Revolution is costing humanity neither penalties nor tears. History has related only too often actions like those of wild beasts, among whom heroes have been few and far between; let us hope that we are beginning the history of men."

In the light of history, these words are ironic enough, but they were at the time a sincere expression of Mirabeau's chief characteristic: an extreme tolerance which might seem paradoxical in one who is termed by a biographer, "Voice of the Revolution." Antonina Vallentin has brought learning, balance and an ordered mind to her work, MIRABEAU (Hamish Hamilton. 21s.), and the result is impressive; a long and thoroughly documented life of a man who was born an aristocrat but who was one of the first to destroy the regime of aristocratic power, and who said, when he was dying, "Misfortune has stung me, stimulated me, fired me, and I am still burning though I am no more than ash."

Miss Emma Smith has an original tale to tell in MAIDENS' TRIP (Putnam. 8s. 6d.), which concerns the adventures of three girls who, during the war, worked a couple of canal boats between London and Birmingham. The work as she describes it is heavy, difficult, slow and responsible, but in her submission it is *not* boring. For the first three weeks the girls, whose average age was eighteen, found their backs breaking, their stomach muscles strained, their bodies bruised from head to foot, their hands cracked and their skins bitten. Nevertheless, they not only stuck it out, but developed a pride, first of all in their hardiness, and even more in their ability to handle the clumsy boats that often proved to have a wilful life of their own.

Miss Smith relates the girls' exploits with appropriate spirit, and has made a most entertaining book of their saga.

THE LOST LANDSCAPE (Grey Walls. 10s. 6d.) is a book of quiet and charming reminiscence by a New England poet, Winifred Welles, who died almost ten years ago. It is her only prose work, and it shows the poet's sensitivity and her exact and simple use of words, each of which is given its exact value and placing. The book is described as "Some Memories of a Family and a Town in Connecticut 1659-1906," but to English readers it is less the town than the family that is of interest, with its unexpectedly dramatic moments of history and its glimpses of a tart humour that is as much part of the make-up of New England as those superb local delicacies, fish cakes.

Miss Vera Brittain could well claim to be among the most serious of English novelists now writing. Nothing that comes from her pen is without a purpose, recognisable, definite, sometimes even hammered home. There is more than a little nobility in the single-mindedness with which she states and pursues her convictions, and a reader would have to be obtuse indeed not to appreciate this fine quality.

Unfortunately, it is not one that inevitably goes to the making of a fine novel, and Miss Brittain's BORN 1925 (Macmillan. 11s. 6d.) often reads more like a sermon than a brilliant exercise in the art of fiction. There is a message in it, of course, and it is one that even he who runs with the speed of light may read, so clearly is it defined and so firmly is it emphasised. But for the rest, for the story that must carry the message rather than the other way about, I am not so sure that the reader will be as lucky.

An English boy grows up in the tragic years of our recent history. He is the son of a beautiful actress who has lost her only love in the First World War, and of a man who won the V.C. in that war and then joined the ministry to become one of the most popular of London preachers. The father is close to being a saint; the mother, though kind and reasonable, has lost all her capacity for love or even for emotion, and lives in an odd detachment that seems not to affect her fame as an actress. The boy must resolve his attitude, first towards his parents, and, second, towards the war and the fear of wars, against which his father continuously preaches and works.

Admirable basis for a serious work, which is what Miss Brittain has given us, but I still don't think it is an admirable novel. Perhaps you had better read it for yourself and decide.

The art of Ellery Queen is considerable, and seems still to be increasing if one is to judge by his new novel, TEN DAYS' WONDER (Gollancz. 9s. 6d.), which has one of the most improbable plots to be found even among detective stories, and yet which provides continuously exciting reading. In other words, Mr. Queen makes you read it and like it, in spite of any rumblings of one's reason in the far background.

The story is of a father, larger than life-size both physically and in his business and domestic projects, and his adopted son. The father is married to a young wife and not only he, but the son love her. That is, so to speak, the base of the problem, which is further complicated by huge and wolfish brothers, by very old crones, and by an invisible but potent blackmailer with the effective habit of speaking through tissue paper on the telephone, though less for hygiene than for mystification, be it said.

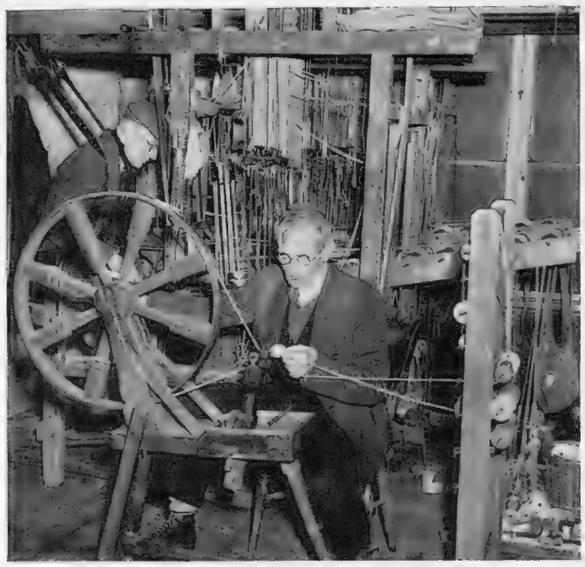
The colossal improbabilities, which I expect you will accept and enjoy as much as I did, are handled with dash and skill, and the result is the best "Queen" for years.

CAPTAIN CAUTION (Collins. 9s. 6d.) is a new sea story by Mr. Kenneth Roberts, and if you remember *Northwest Passage*, you will know what you have to look forward to in the way of action, romanticism and solid historical backing. In the present novel, the period is the American War of Independence, and the action is chiefly on the high seas, which is something of a change for this writer, but a change which he handles with perfect assurance.

In the Royal Navy at the time of which Mr. Roberts writes, there appear to have been some sad dogs, and in the American Navy not a few strange characters too, but the Captain himself is an American figure of truly heroic proportions, and it shouldn't be necessary to add that his catch-phrase—"Just a little ordinary caution"—conceals a talent for correspondingly heroic action. This is a perfectly satisfying example of healthy, lusty fiction.

Young Mr. Denton Welch's first book of short stories, BRAVE AND CRUEL (Hamish Hamilton. 8s. 6d.), is worth your notice from the odd and graceful wrapper drawn by the author himself, to the last of the ten tales which are such characteristic examples of his fresh talent, and of the unusual directness of his style. Often with a writer of this age (Mr. Welch is still in his twenties) there is a tendency to over-elaboration. Here is a writer who, although he has not yet reached maturity, has the good sense to pare down and to simplify, leaving the essence of each story to speak for itself.

VILLAIN WITH A SMILING CHEEK (Gollancz. 9s. 6d.) has the melancholy setting of ruined Vienna, with Allied troops in occupation. Mr. Paul Murray has written a kind of detective story about an underground terrorist organisation, and the efforts of some American and British intelligence officers to discover and catch its leader. Perhaps the best thing about the book is the fidelity of its atmosphere. This adds up to being an unusually interesting novel by a writer who is new to me, and full of promise.



**IS THIS TO BE A DYING TRADE?—A SPINNER AND WEAVER PREPARING THE TRIMMINGS FOR CLARENCE HOUSE: A scene in the workroom of No. 12, Little Britain, in the City of London, where craftsmen employed by Mr. Bertram A. Clarke are busy making tassels, loops and fringes for Princess Elizabeth's London home.** Mr. Clarke, who has been at his craft for forty-five years, says that it is a dying trade, as it takes about ten years to make a competent workman of this kind. The weaver in this picture is Mr. Walter Clarke, aged forty-nine, and the spinner is Mr. Morgan, who is aged sixty

## HOW MANET SHOCKED FRANCE

Once Reviled "Olympia" Enters the "Gallery of Masterpieces"

Since the war, the book market has been flooded with books upon art from the Flemish primitives to modern times. For the most part these books have been admirably produced, and some of them deserve a special word of praise by reason of their high instructional value, notably the *Gallery of Masterpieces* (Max Parrish. 7s. 6d.). Each book in this series deals with one of the great works of art that belong to our heritage. Each is a scrutiny and analysis of the work and of the influences which led to its creation. The latest three titles in this series are "HELENA FOURMENT: RUBENS," "THE DRAWBRIDGE: VAN GOGH," and "OLYMPIA: MANET." François Mathey contributes the essay on Manet's "reclining odalisque," the academic nude which shocked the Salon, causing Parisians to crowd there "with the morbid curiosity of visitors to the Morgue." "Olympia" was a symbol of unblushing sensuality; the "diabolist" school of literature had at last found its echo in the world of painting. M. Mathey gives as the reason for Manet's picture his desire to be revenged on the bourgeoisie, notably the bourgeoisie of his own family, the men of high connections with Bench and Bar, who had once regarded him as the black sheep of the family. "Olympia" gave Manet that revenge, and at the same time a certain ascendancy, for only two of his subsequent pictures were as severely handled by critics and public as "Olympia." Within a few years, Manet and his followers had begun to gain the day. Frank Elgar contributes the essay on "The Drawbridge," that most remarkable of pictures which emerged from Van Gogh's wanderings over the Provençal countryside. It was completed at the time when he was at the height of his powers, painting with "a monstrous joy" and revelling in the sun-scorched land around him. On its emergence "The Drawbridge" produced no frenzied howls of anguish like Manet's "Olympia."

Mr. Punch has usually taken most things in his stride, and although it took him years to become accustomed to the be-whiskered face of Abraham Lincoln, it is on record that he accepted the coming of the camera with only a modicum of misgiving. PUNCH IN CAMERALAND (Focal Press. 18s.) shows how Mr. Punch amused himself and others by turning a satirical though not entirely unsympathetic eye upon the self-important exertions of humanity with a new toy. The series of drawings, articles and poems culled from *Punch* take us from the earliest days when photography became a craze to modern times, when it is regarded both as a commonplace necessity of everyday life and as an art in itself.

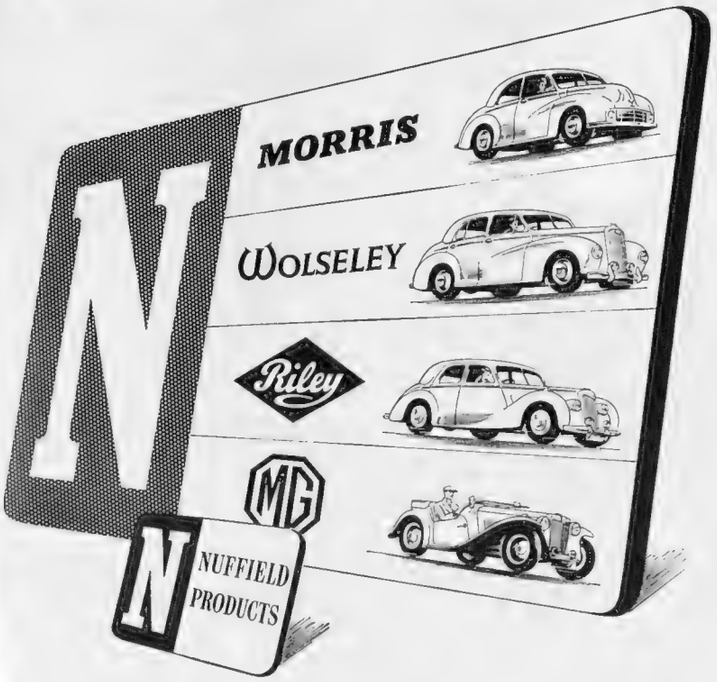
Mr. John Baker White is the Conservative M.P. for Canterbury, and having served during the war with the Political Intelligence Department of the Foreign Office, he is well qualified as a Communist witch-hunter. His book THE SOVIET SPY SYSTEM (Falcon Press. 7s. 6d.) is in part a factual account of the sensational Canadian Spy Trials held in 1946, trials which startled the whole world, and in part a study of Soviet organisations abroad.

Edward Seago's quiet charm, with which he conjures up the atmosphere of old familiar places, is once again expressed in a delightful book of essays and reproductions of his pictures, in which he again makes us realise how much there is in the countryside which most of us fail to notice. TIDELINE (Collins. 16s.). Mr. Seago describes as the Ebb and Flow of Memory and Experience. His many readers will not be disappointed.

In these stringent days for middle-class purses, the householder has not only to plan his own interior decorations, but often does them himself. Derek Patmore, for years a contributor to the *Home Journals*, hands on to the reader a host of good ideas in I DECORATE MY HOME (Falcon Press. 10s. 6d). The reader of spirit will, having read the book, no doubt take a delight in rejecting these ideas and thinking up others of his own, and that is exactly what Mr. Patmore wishes to achieve.

The most varied book for young people ever produced must surely be THE JUNIOR WEEK-END BOOK (Victor Gollancz. 7s. 6d.), edited by J. R. Evans. With nearly 600 pages and its three sub-divisions, "for any week-end," "for outdoor week-ends" and "for indoor week-ends," it covers practically the whole field of juvenile entertainment. In much the same category, but limited to one pursuit only, is W. Oakley's THE BOY'S WORK-SHOP COMPANION (The Bodley Head. 8s. 6d.), a first-rate elementary treatise on cabinet-making and carpentry, complete with elaborate but easily understood diagrams.

## Names you can trust!

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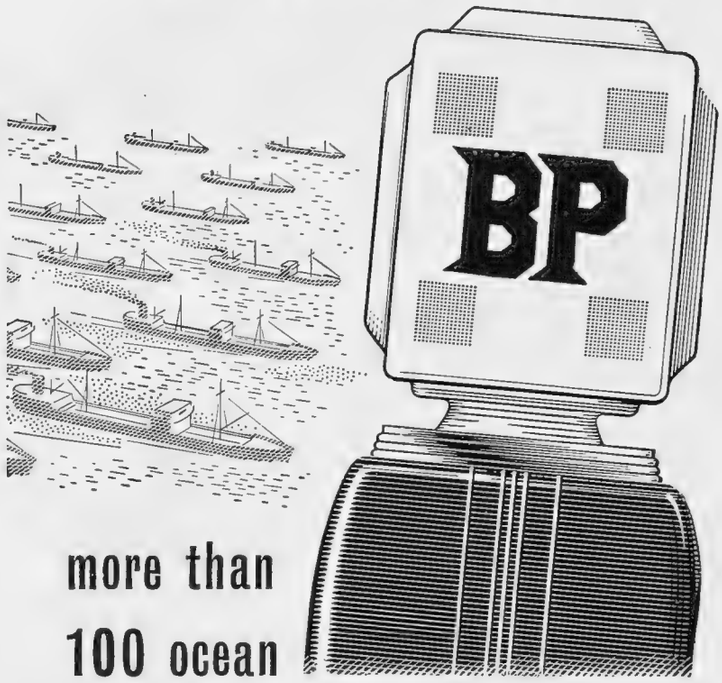


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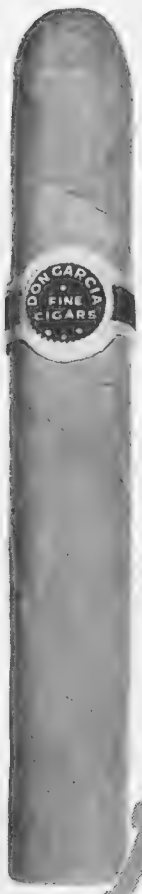


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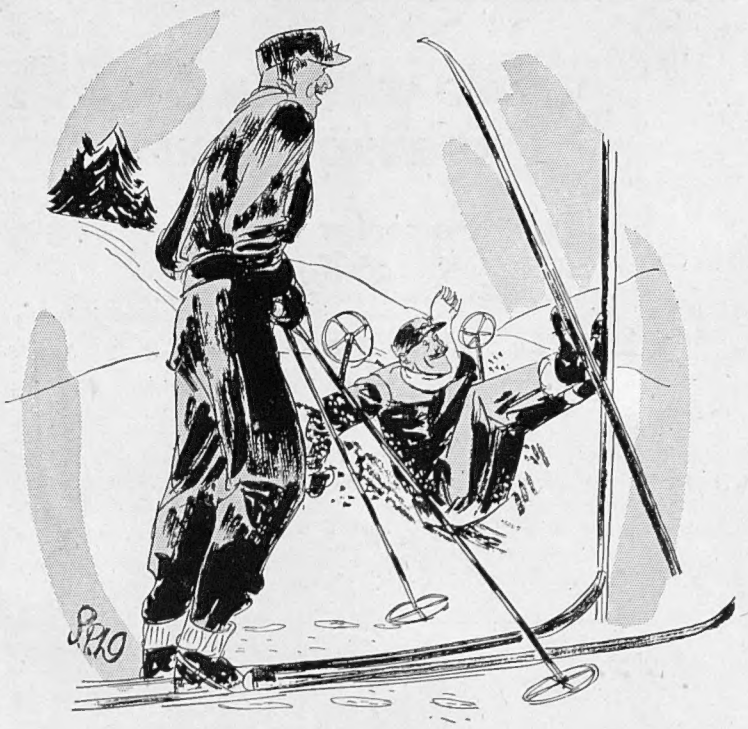

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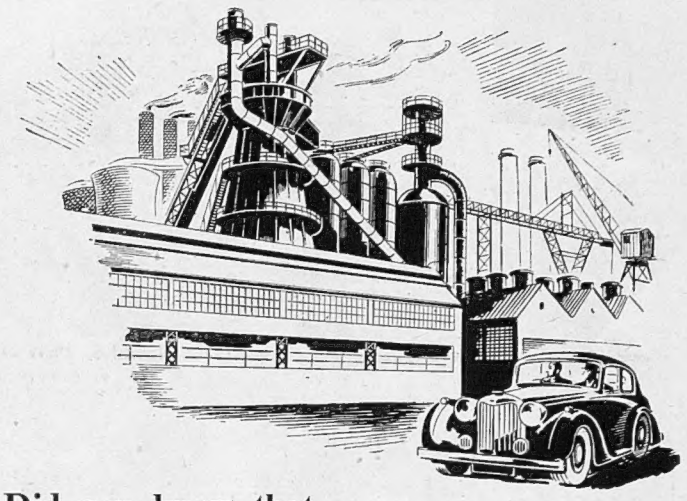

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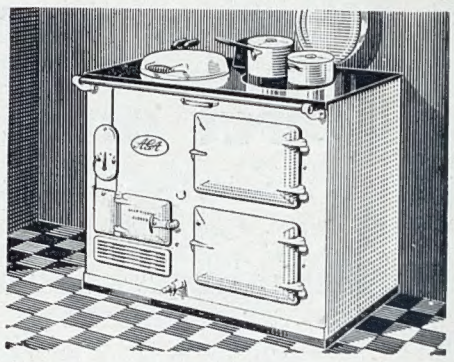

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